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TO OUR READERS:

In compliance with the Israeli military authorities, and under [illegible] ons" of 1945, Al-Fajr is required to submit all material prepared for publicatic [illegible] ekly Hebrew Edition, to the Israeli censorship authorities, who use this blan[illegible] excessively. The material appearing on pages labeled with letters has all been censored and expunged by the Israeli authorities. We found it necessary and relevant to publish it on these pages in the foreign edition.

INJURED 65-YEAR-OLD REFUSES TO GIVE UP HOME

Jewish Students Attack Palestinian Resident Of Jerusalem

Fatmeh Abu Mayaleh of Jerusalem in Makassed Hospital after being stabbed in the face and body, April 4, by Jewish religious students. She remains in critical condition./SF

Fatmeh Salah Ibrahim Abu Mayaleh, 65, was stabbed in the face and body, April 4, by students at a Jewish religious school in Aqbat Khaldieh in the Old City of Jerusalem. She remains in Makassed Hospital in a critical condition. A young Palestinian who attempted to help her to the hospital was also beaten and hospitalised.

Eyewitness Raja'a Mahmoud Abu Sneineh, 15, told *Al Fajr* that around 2:00 pm she heard noises coming from Hajeh Fatmeh's house. Raja'a entered and found her neighbour covered in blood. "I noticed a knife near her body. I screamed," she said.

Her cries brought Fatmeh's brother Dyab and other neighbours and relatives who took her to the nearby Hospice Hospital. She was later transferred to Makassed Hospital.

Fatmeh was operated on for six hours. Her condition was later described as "serious" by hospital sources.

Neighbours attribute attacks on the woman to her and her husband Ibrahim's refusal to sell their two-room apartment to Israelis.

The Jewish religious school shares a courtyard with Palestinian families. In 1967 it was occupied by 18 Arab families. Today, only the Mayaleh's and the Abu Sneineh's remain. The others have either sold out or been evicted. Mahmoud Abdulla Abu Sneineh, Raja'a's father, told *Al Fajr* that Jewish students throw stones at them at night to force them to leave the house and sell their apartment.

As news of the attack spread through the Old City, there were reports of demonstrations. There had already been demonstrations earlier in the day because of an attempt by settlers to pray in al-Aqsa mosque.

Nafez Mohammad Daoud Abu Meizer, 19, was beaten up by soldiers as he helped carry Fatmeh Abu Mayaleh to the Hospice. He is being treated in Makassed Hospital. Abu Meizer works at the *Al Fajr* Arabic printing press.

Meir Gilbeh, spokesman for the Jerusalem police, claimed that Fatmeh was injured during stone throwing between Arabs and Jews. He said that neighbours were questioned, but noted that Fatmeh's husband has not yet been asked to make a statement. The Israeli spokesman was unaware of the injuries Abu Meizar sustained and said that he had not been questioned.

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CASES MULTIPLY: THREE INTERNATIONAL TEAMS INVESTIGATE

Still No Answers To West Bank Poisoning

Five hundred more cases of suspected inhalation poisoning were treated in West Bank hospitals this week as local and international efforts to determine the cause of the three-week old epidemic continued. Simultaneously outbreaks were reported, April 3, for the first time in the Hebron and Tulkarm areas. On April 7, 15 cases were reported in Kalandia and Amari camps in the Ramallah area. Two separate health teams -- one from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the other sent by the US at Israel's request -- are currently in the West Bank conducting enquiries.

The latest wave began Sunday when Alia Hospital in Hebron received Rasmieh Bir'awi, a ninth grader at Yatta school. She was taken to hospital at 8:30 am after she complained of a sudden headache and then collapsed. By 9:00 am, there was pandemonium in central Hebron as over 300 schoolchildren from Yatta and Beit Ummar villages were brought to Hebron hospitals by concerned relatives and school staff.

Abd al-Rahman Namoura, the chief doctor at Alia Hospital, told *Al Fajr* that his patients were suffering from the same symptoms as victims of the outbreak last week in the Jenin district: headaches, general weakness, relaxed muscles and dilated pupils.

When the situation cleared a total of 230 people had been admitted to the Alia Hospital, 78 to the Husseini Hospital in Bethlehem, four to the French Hospital in the same town, four to the Makassed in Jerusalem and six to Haddassah, Ein Karem, West Jerusalem.

In the Tulkarm area, despite a news blackout and curfews in the larger towns, *Al Fajr* learned that 55 students from Gamal Abd al-Nasser Girls School in Tulkarm and 130 from Anabta school had been hospitalised. Eighty more cases were transferred to Nablus.

Dr Shariq Qa'dan, head of the Tulkarm government-run hospital, is forbidden by military order to speak to the press and could not confirm the poisonings.

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Soldier harassment outside Damascus Gate, Jerusalem as demonstrations swept the Old City. /JN

IN RESPONSE TO POISONINGS, AL-AQSA THREAT

DEMONSTRATIONS SWEEP WEST BANK

With tension high as reports came in of poisonings in Hebron and Anabta, April 3, violent protests broke out all over the West Bank. Three people were wounded by Israeli troops in separate clashes and widespread curfews were imposed.

The fiercest demonstrations the town has ever seen, according to locals, broke out in Tulkarm, where nearly 185 girl students from Tulkarm and Anabta were hospitalised after they went down with the poisoning. Reports from the city said that immediately after the news of the mass hospitalisation spread, thousands of residents took to the streets, attacking Israeli vehicles They then turned their attention to the Discount Bank, smashing its front window, and destroying the furniture inside. Scores of troops arrived in the city in order to stop the demonstrations. Later, Tulkarm and the nearby refugee camp were placed under curfew.

In Hebron demonstrations started as cars flowed into the city bringing victims from the town of Yatta and the village of Beit Ummar. People gathered in the streets to find out what was going on and soon huge crowds began chanting anti-occupation slogans and filling the streets with stones. In a matter of minutes, many streets were im-

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Militiamen of Saad Haddad's mercenary force in Sidon. Lebanese communities in the south are increasing resistance against elements collaborating with the Israelis.

LEBANESE RESISTANCE TO OCCUPATION TOUGHENS IN THE SOUTH

by Livia Rokach
Our Rome Correspondent

A booby-trapped, dynamite loaded truckexploded mid-afternoon April 5 at the entrance to Ain al-Hilweh camp. Fortunately, the explosion caused no casualties. Observers on the spot have no doubt, however, that the perpetrators, probably Saad Haddad men, meant it to be yet another act of intimidation against the Palestinian population. Earlier, about noon, a bomb exploded in the centre of Sidon, not far from Haddad's headquarters. There were no casualties in that case either.

Tension in South Lebanon has not subsided, despite the release, on April 3, of Sheikh Gharib Harb, after almost three weeks of detention by the occupation forces. The demonstrations and sit-ins which started immediately after Sheikh Harb's arrest and have continued non-stop through the past 20 days, reached a new peak last weekend with practically the entire Lebanese Shi'ite population responding with enthusiasm and fervour to the call of the political and religious leaderships to refuse all collaboration with the occupation forces and to boycott all Israeli products. The call was issued by the two anti-occupation trends -- the independent Amal movement (IA), headed by Nabih Beri and the pro-Khomeini movement, supported by Mohammad Mahdi Shams el-Din, head of the Supreme Shi'ite Council (SSC). The Sunnite Mufti of Beirut, Sheikh Khaled el-Hassan, also supported the call.

In Nabatiya, one of the major centres of the protest, Haddad militia men, furious with rage, threatened shopowners that their shops would be dynamited if they joined the general strike.

For the third consecutive Friday, sermons in all the Shi'ite mosques throughout the south and in west Beirut condemned the occupation forces and their collaborators. Scenes recalling to mind the West Bank, with very young boys stoning vehicles, and barricades emerging from nowhere on the roads between villages, have been repeatedly witnessed in the area these days. Most Lebanese and foreign observers state that such a widespread ferment among the southern population is without precedent.

The heightened level of the activities of the patriotic resistance front seems to have greatly contributed to this recent change of climate in South Lebanon. According to Western sources in Beirut, not a single day passes without action by a smaller or bigger entity and without causing damage and casualties to the occupation forces.

On the other hand, certain action and statements by the occupation authorities have also contributed to dispelling illusions which persisted in some South Lebanese sectors where the invaders presence was to be considered temporary and even reassuring in respect to that of the Haddad and Phalangist militias. One such action has been the recent attempt to unify all the local militias into a single regional structure, which is expected to integrate eventually with Saad Haddad's mercenary troops.

No More Illusions

The result of this policy, the observers note, is best and most typically exemplified by developments in Tyre. At first, some time ago, in order to prevent the local militia headed by Qazim al-Khalil from acquiring "too much power", the constitution of a rival militia, headed by a certain Shikri Abdallah, an offspring of the collaborationist clan from Khiam, was encouraged and aided. At present, under the unification project, the al-Khalil militiamen who refuse to intergrate into the Shikri Abdallah-dominated framework are being dismissed. Clashes between the two groups, who are both armed by the occupier, have become a daily practice. The effect on the Lebanese population at large, however, seems to be that of unifying the ranks against the occupation. The idea, prevailing some months or even weeks ago, that the occupation forces are external to local conflict and "above" them, and that they can be called in case of clashes for whatever reason as "mediators" or "pacifiers", has entirely dissipated, according to the observers.

The change of mood in the south is also affecting developments in Beirut. There the Shi ite population, mostly concentated in the areas around the Palestinian camps, is becoming increasingly aware in the wake of mass arrest and persecution, that the Phalangist project is total hegemony and they forsee Shi'ite Muslims as the next target, after the Palestinians, for political elimination and physical persecution.

Meanwhile for the first time since the cease-fire agreement was concluded on February 7, battles have flared up again in the Shouf mountians between PPS Druze forces and Phalangist militias. Observers link these exchanges of fire to the deadlock in the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations and renewed pressures by Israel on the Lebanese government to surrender to its position.

Embarrased by the attacks two week ago on the multinational forces, pressed between internal and exernal pressures from all sides on the military, political and economic levels, unaided in fact by the US which has done nothing effective yet to force the invading forces to retreat – the Gemayel regime has for the moment suspended the destruction of homes in Burj al-Barajneh and other areas in south Beirut and has released some of the more recently arrested prisoners.

Israeli Authorities Forbid Burial of Ansar Prisoner

The Israeli military authorities in the Gaza Strip refused early this week to allow the body of an Ansar detention camp prisoner to be buried in his home town of Khan Yunis. Contact with the Israeli authorities is being carried out by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Farid Hamad Abu Sitteh, 24, a 1979 high school graduate, was killed two weeks ago in Ansar camp in South Lebanon. His parents, who live in Egypt, having left the Strip in 1967, were informed of their son's death. A few days earlier Israeli papers carried news of a rebellion in the camp and villagers close to Ansar said they heard gunfire. He probably died on or around March 20.

Al Fajr learned that the ICRC has been in contact with the Israeli authorities on the issue for more than a week. The efforts to bury Abu Sitteh in Khan Yunis came on request from the youth's parents after the Egyptian government denied the family a permit to bury their son in Egypt.

The youth's father was an Egyptian government employee when he lived in Gaza before 1967. Friends of the Abu Sitteh family suggest that sour relations between the PLO and the Egyptian government were responsible for the Egyptian government's decision.

The Palestinian youth had been in the Israeli detention camp for more than 10 months since his arrest in early June 1982 when Israeli troops swept through South Lebanon.

It was only after the ICRC mission visited him in the camp in September 1982, that the family learned he was alive and a prisoner of war.

Presently, neither the family in Egypt, nor the relatives in Khan Yunis know the whereabouts of Farid's body.

Palestinians, Syrians Clash With Israelis In Beqa'a

Palestinian and Syrian forces and Israeli troops swapped artillery shells in the Beqa'a valley in Lebanon early this week, across the cease fire lines. Meanwhile, the four-month old Lebanese-American-Israeli talks remained deadlocked over the issue of any future role in the South for Israeli-backed renegade Major Saad Haddad.

Reports from the Beqa'a valley said that Syrian and Palestinian artillerybatteries entrenched the eastern Lebanese hills near Sultan Ya coub, and Israeli guns in the Kamed al-Loz traded fire twice, on March 30. The duel lasted for half-an-hour. No casualty figures were released. News reporters in the area said that the duels were coupled with troop reinforcement on the part of the Israelis. At least 30 tanks, and 15 half-tracked vehicles took front line positions according to local reports. The Syrian troops for their part continued to build fortifications, prepare trenches, and push more armour up to their frontlines.

A second exchange of fire occured on April 1. Israel did not report either incident.

Increased tension in the Beqa'a valley followed repeated threats by top Israeli officials, during the past two weeks, to act against "the threat posed" by the strengthened Syrian air defence system. On March 30, the Soviet Union warned that it will intervene, should Israel launch an attack against Syrian forces.

Failing Talks

At the diplomatic level, the 27th round of Lebanese-Israeli-American talks, on April 7, ended without any progress on two issues, the Israeli demand for security arrangements, and the future relations between Israel and Lebanon. Israel's foreign minister, Yitzhaq Shamir accused US special envoy to the Middle East Philip Habib, April 6, of supporting the Lebanese position in the talks. On the same day, deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Meir said that Israel will not yield to US pressure in regard to its position at the talks. Ben Meir was referring to Reagan's decision to postpone the shipment of 75 F-16 jet fighters to Israel. Both Israeli officials insisted that "Israel will not waver in its security demand in South Lebanon."

Central to Israeli concepts of security in the south is a role for renegade Major Saad Haddad. Lebanon and the US reportedly do not see any role for the Major who defected to Israel, but promise his fighters will be absorbed into the reformed Lebanese army.

THIS WEEK'S CENSORSHIP

Following is a breakdown of censorship cuts for issue 153, April 8, 1983:

Number of original articles submitted to censor	22
Number of articles totally censored out	9
Number of articles mutilated beyond use	1
Number of articles partially censored but used	2
Number of articles passed	10

From Injuries Sustained In Demonstration

Jenin Youth Dies

Mohammad Salim Nasrah, 15, died April 5 from head injuries he received during a demonstration in Jenin March 27. Nazal Darwish, a doctor at Makassed Hospital where the boy died, said he suffered a brain hemorrhage. Hiam Hasra, Mohammad's mother, 33, told *Al Fajr* that her son was hit on his head by a bottle.

After the demonstration, Mohammad was taken to Jenin Hospital where doctors bandaged his head and sent him home the same day. When he returned home, he told his aunt that he was hit by a bottle while leaving school. Then he began vomitting. *The Jerusalem Post* quoted the family saying that an Israeli soldier had hit him with the bottle. His family took him to the clinic of Dr. Haifa Ali Kamleh in Jenin who transferred him to the Ittihad Nisa'i Hospital in Nablus. Later the same day, Mohammad was taken to the French Hospital in Jerusalem and then to Hadassah Hospital, Mutala', and afterwards to Hadassah Hospital, Ain Karem, where he had an EEG. He was then sent to Makassed where he died nine days after he was injured.

Hiam Nasrah told *Al Fajr* that there was a long delay in X-raying her son.

Police sources claimed Mohammad died after a rock throwing incident in Jenin.

Demonstrations Break Out In Taibeh

Demonstrations broke out on the afternoon of April 4 in Taibeh, the Triangle and continued until late in the evening. Youths gathered near the local mosque, marched throgh the village and chanted Palestinian national slogans. A passing police jeep was hit by stones and its windscreen was smashed. The youths also set fire to tyres and set up roadblocks of stones on the Kfar Saba-Tulkarm road.

Police forces arrived in Taibeh, patrolled the village streets and clashed with stone-throwers; seven people were arrested.

Taibeh residents said that the demonstrations started to protest the West Bank poisonings which the previous day had reached Tulkarm, a few minutes drive from Taibeh. (Translation from Haaretz, April 5).

Alan Goodman after his arrest April 11, 1982 following the attack on al-Aqsa

Al-Aqsa Attacker Gets Life Imprisonment

The man declared a 'sole lunatic" by Israeli Premier Menachem Begin after the attack on al-Aqsa Mosque last April 11 was declared sane and found guilty by a Jerusalem court, April 7. He was sentenced to life imprisonment plus 20 years.

Alan Goodman, an Israeli of US origin, was found guilty of killing one person, wounding others and attempting to murder four policemen. Before handing down a verdict, judges said Goodman, a serving soldier when he hit the mosque, had a "borderline personality disorder" but "was not legally insane" when he committed the acts. After a short recess, the court handed down life imprisonment for the murder charge and 20 years for attempted murder. They will run concurrently.

Outside the court, Goodman raised his arms and shouted to waiting newsmen that Israel should "liquidate the Arabs," "execute the Arab child murderers" and other similar slogans.

His lawyer said she would appeal both the sentence and the decision to find Goodman sane.

In an early morning attack on the mosque last year, Goodman shot and killed a guard and ran into The Dome of the Rock mosque shooting wildly. Two people died and 60 were wounded in the attack.

SAMED OFFICES IN BEIRUT WRECKED

Bomb Blasts PLO Cooperative

A violent explosion wrecked the administrative offices of Samed, the PLO's industrial and agricultural cooperative, in west Beirut, April 1. The explosion also damaged other buildings in the vicinity including the headquarters of the Lebanese Communist Action Organisation. Several vehicles parked near the Samed building also caught fire.

Lebanese internal security sources confirmed that a bomb estimated to weigh 10 kilogrammes caused the damage. Residents of the area told reporters that the sound of the explosion woke them at dawn. The explosion shattered windows within two kilometres of the blast. An eyewitness told reporters that he saw large forces of Israeli and Lebanese soldiers closing off the area. A military expert searched for other bombs and explosives. In a statement to the *Agence France Presse*, Bassam Abu Sharif said that the incident is evidence that, "the collaborators are still working in Lebanon after the departure of the PLO," and proves that, "Lebanese and Palestinian civilians are the targets of the collaborators."

Samed provides employment to 4500 Palestinians, most of whom are children or spouses of martyrs.

AFTER 24-HOUR INTERROGATION

Al Fajr Editor Released

Al Fajr editor in chief, Hanna Siniora, was released from the Muscobiyya, March 31, after a 24 hour interrogation. Siniora reported that he had been questioned about an alleged visit to Algiers during the February Palestine National Council meeting and contacts with the PLO.

He was released, he says, after a local couple told the Israelis that they were with him throughout his February visit to Paris and London.

FOR POSSESSION OF AL FAJR ENGLISH

Al Fajr Correspondent Arrested

TULKARM — The Israeli authorities informed Aqab al-Sa'ed, April 4, the Tulkarm district correspondent and agent for *Al Fajr*, that he must appear at the local military court, April 12, to face charges of possession of *Al Fajr* English and *Al Usbua' al-Jadid*.

The Israeli authorities raided *Al Fajr's* Tulkarm office in 1981 and confiscated copies of *Al Fajr* English . In 1982 they returned and took *Al Usbua' al-Jadid*. Al-Sa'ed said he was "surprised" that he was being charged two years after the event. Both papers have licenses to be distributed on the West Bank and no military order has been issued forbidding distribution.

Khalil Ibrahim Abu Khadijeh, 35 died in Ramallah prison, April 5, from unknown causes. He was arrested in 1969 and was serving a 20-year sentence.

Al Fajr's Qalqilya correspondent, Ballal Sabri, was notified he is to be taken to court in Nablus, April 13, to face charges of possession of *Al Fajr* in English. The authorities raided his office on October 4, 1982.

MORE CURFEWS THAN FREEDOM

NABLUS CURFEW TALLY RISES

The curfew imposed on the centre of Nablus last Saturday was lifted on Monday. The last curfew means that last month the Qasabeh quarter was restricted more days than not.

Since last November, the Israeli authorities have imposed successive curfews.

During this period curfews went as follows:

November 1982: 12 days curfew
December 1982: 17 days curfew
January 1983: 14 days curfew
February 1983: 14 days curfew
March 1983: 21 days curfew

The majority of Nablus' 70,000 residents are working-class and depend on daily work for their living. The Qasabeh quarter contains the principal Nablus bakery, a tahina press, sweets and cheese works, soap factories, wholesale and jewelry markets as well as dozens of mosques. (Translation: Al Mithaq, April 6, 1983)

UNRWA SCHOOLS CLOSED IN WEST BANK

A total of 98 United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) schools are closed in the West Bank from April 3 to 9, by order of the Israeli occupation authorities, an official statement from the organisation said, April 6. The number of Palestinian refugee children out of school is 39,568. This is in addition to the 26,000 children in government and private schools in the West Bank which have been closed for the same period.

In addition to UNRWA's schools, its teacher and vocational training centres at Ramallah (for women) and at Kalandia in the West Bank are closed until the end of April and mid-May respectively.

Palestinian Commandos Sentenced

An Israeli military court in Nablus sentenced two Palestinian commandos to 25 years each, and a third to 20 years, after convicting them, April 6, of armed infiltration and attacking Israeli troops.

Marwan Zaloum, 24, Nasim Daoud, 21, and Jamal Darajmeh, 24, crossed the Jordan in late January, 1982, near the Palestinian village of Tayasir, near Nablus, and attacked an Israeli patrol. The three commandos were arrested after being wounded in the 36-hour battle which ensued. An unspecified number of Israeli soldiers were killed and injured in the operation.

Fascist Expertise

JERUSALEM — Israel Radio said that the Israeli defence ministry has formed a unit to end the incidents in the West Bank. The radio added that the unit, headed by a top officer in the central region, and which contains representatives from the army, police, the office of the Israeli works coordinator and a number of legal experts, is preparing a special report on ways to confront the incidents and to give this report to Chief-of-Staff Moshe Levy and to defence minister Moshe Arens.

Land Day In Golan Heights Villages

A general strike in the four villages in the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan Heights was observed at the occasion of Land Day. Workers did not leave the villages and students did not attend classes. The Syrian flag was hoisted on the roof of the Majdal Shams School.

Cloaks Change

GAZA — Judge Mohammad Jamil al-Asha has been appointed head of the High Court in the Gaza Strip in place of Judge Rizeq Farah Halazoun.

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Poisonings

He did confirm that the WHO and US health teams had both visited the hospital.

Fifteen women from Kalandia and Amari refugee camps collapsed and were hospitalised on the morning of April 7. All complainedof the poisoning symptoms. Twelve were later discharged. Alia Muhammad Sombati, 58, and Jazia Said A'lan, 45, from Kalandia and Amina Muhammad Firreh, 38, from Amari remained in hospital complaining of headaches. Alia Sombati also said she had pains in her ears.

The women said they collapsed after being "overcome by some kind of gas' when they opened their doors first thing in the morning.

Because of the unknown nature of the substance affecting the victims there is no standard treatment. Patients with breathing difficulties are given oxygen. In most cases initial recovery comes after four hours or so. There have been cases of symptoms recurring up to several days later, however.

Peter Qaimari, a surgeon at Bethlehem's Husseini Hospital, told *Al Fajr* that examinations of the patients prove that the girl students suffered from poisoning by unknown substances while others suffered from "psychological causes." A case in point could be that of Khawla Muhammad Hussein from Yatta. She said, "When I first saw what happened (to my classmates) I became frightened and fell down with a heavy headache."

Dr Fadel Hijazi, deputy director of the Alia Hospital, said that of the 250 - 300 cases they admitted "60 - 70 girls have returned to us asking us to cure them."

"I have met WHO officials, US embassy officials and US investigators," Hijazi said, "I found the latter the most open and willing to find the root of the problem. They checked with patients, took samples, tests and were unsure of the cause, just like we are."

Israeli health and military officials have called the epidemic "mass hysteria" and "well-organised deception" pointing to a lack of concrete laboratory findings thus far. But West Bank physicians who have treated most of the victims, mainly girls between 11 and 16 years old, say test results are inconclusive and that more medical investigation needs to be carried out. Dr Shehadeh Shehadeh, West Bank director of hospitals, told Israel Radio, April 5, that in at least 20 percent of the cases there was a definite clinical picture of poisoning.

Bir Zeit University issued a statement to coincide with a student protest hunger strike, April 5, in which they "strongly refuted" Israel's allegations of hysteria and asserted that West Bank researchers are convinced some kind of "toxicity" is involved. Local doctors have attributed most of the recent cases to poisoning while accepting that some of the girls were caught up in an atmosphere of hysteria. The hunger strike lasted 24 hours.

Experts point out that as in most poisoning cases, symptoms in the present cases are subjective but point out that dilated pupils that do not react to strong light is an objective condition. A BBC correspondent who visited Hebron's Alia Hospital tested one patient's eyes with a pencil beam light and later said, "They didn't react. Not even to a strong light."

Testing of blood and urine samples in Palestinian labs have so far turned up no foreign substances. Technicians point out that West Bank facilities can provide only rudimentary analysis. Hospitals are cooperating with foreign experts who arrived last weekend - Australian epidemiologist, Dr Ian Carter and Italian toxicologist, Dr Gastone Vettorrazi from the WHO and Dr Philip Landrigan and Dr Beth Miller, from the National Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. The WHO twosome is visiting hospitals accompanied by Israeli health ministry officials but the US team is remaining independent of Israelis other than for background briefings.

An official of the International Commitee of the Red Cross, Dr Frank Altherr, spent the weekend investigating the poisonings and then left the country, apparently not having had any contact with Palestinian physicians treating victims. He left in his wake a considerable confusion as to what, if any, conclusions he reached.

Altherr, himself, made no statement but Israeli Health Ministry Director-General, Baruch Modan, quoted the Red Cross official as saying he was "under the impression that no poisonous agents are involved" and that it "was a mass phenomenon with no organic basis." Modan presented an extensive medical report to the Israeli Cabinet, April 6, detailing the chronology and development of the health situation since the first outbreak in Arrabeh, Jenin area, March 21. He modified the term "mass hysteria" with the new "mass phenomenon" to describe the epidemic. He told *The Jerusalem Post* "We are on the edge of psychological warfare."

The "first level" the Director-General said was "biological symptoms being misused for psychological purposes to create stress among the local population and to create hostile world opinion. "On the second level," he said, "psychological pressure is being used to create biological symptoms."

The Red Cross in Geneva countered with a statement that Altherr did not go to analyse the causes of the outbreak, merely to see if local facilities were adequate to cope with it. Dan Meridor, the Cabinet secretary, announced, however, after this week's meeting, that Red Cross "tests" were part of the information the Health Ministry used to make its assessment that there was no organic basis for the epidemic.

To confuse the issue further the BBC announced, April 7, that the ICRC in Geneva had issued a statement that "in view of the objective findings," including the large number of cases and the lack of results so far, the Red Cross "recommends the setting up of a full fledged investigation... to determine as soon as possible the cause" of the poisoning.

Israeli West bank 'civil administrator', Shlomo Elia, who has insisted since the first reports of suspected poisoning emerged that it was the work of "political agitators" said, April 5, that a large number of people are being held for "incitement". Elia asserted that agitators were "cynically exploiting the fears of local schoolgirls and the international press."

At the same time Elia ordered the immediate transfer of the victims from Hebron hospital to hospitals inside Israel and the discharge or transfer of 40 of the remaining 76 hospitalised students. No explanation was given, but the forced ejection of the students took place 24 hours before the US team was due in Hebron to conduct investigations. "It sounds like a game of cat and mouse," said one Western correspondent who was covering the story. Fifty girls were transferred from Hebron to Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem and 66 were released. Four Yatta students remain hospitalised at Alia.

Prior to the outbreak in Hebron and Tulkarm 15 medical experts from the Israeli army and the health ministry told a press conference, March 31, that the epidemic in Jenin was a mass panic triggered by a "possible environmental irritant" in Arrabeh village.

The West Bank Director of Public Health, Dr Hussein Obeid, criticised the Israeli health director for being "in such a hurry to pass judgement." Obeid reminded the Israelis that their own army nurse had succumbed to similar symptoms while on investigation in Jenin and that this incident was not mentioned in their report.

On April 4, after PLO lobbying, the UN Security Council called on UN Secretary-General, Peres de Cuellar, to investigate "the causes and effect of the reported cases of poisoning" in the West Bank. Israel's UN Ambassador Yehuda Blum called the statement "inappropriate" and said it insulted the medical teams currently engaged in the investigation and Israeli denials that poisoning exists.

US State Department officials in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem are privately sceptical of the official Israeli explanation of "mass hysteria". *The Jerusalem Post* reported, April 5, pointing out that several Israeli soldiers have also complained of the same symptoms.

The poisonings started in Arrabeh, the Jenin district, March 21. Since then there have been reports of over 1000 cases with the poisoning symptoms now from all over the West Bank. Initially Israeli experts attributed the symptoms to an "unknown poison."

Reports from the Ja'abari family quarter which abutts Kiryat Arba outside Hebron, and Dura, in the Hebron district say "unidentified people" have put a non-toxic yellow powder in wells. Residents in both places are suspicious of tap water after reports that the supply was poisoned and have been dependent on wells for drinking water in the past week.

Mohammad Hassan Sarhan, 18 from al-Aroub refugee camp was shot by Israeli settlers as he attempted to aid poison victims/SF

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Demonstration

passable and a sea of people was marching in the streets. Troop re-inforcements were called in and Israeli soldiers fired live ammunition and tear gas at protestors.

Hijazi Sider, 15, was wounded in the arm. The center of the city was later placed under curfew.

Some 15 kilometers to the south, Israeli troops also clamped a curfew on the town of Yatta, where several hundred students briefly held the Hebron area police commander and his assistant hostage in the Secondary School for Girls, following his arrival to inspect thepoisoning. A special army force was brought in to release the two officers.

There were also demonstrations in Dheisheh refugee camp, two kilometres south of Bethlehem. Youths stoned Israeli traffic which passed on the nearby highway. There were reports that armed settlers were posted at the camp entrance to enforce a curfew declared by the Israeli army.

Further south, an Israeli settler from Kiryat Arba shot and injured an 18-year-old resident of al-Aroub refugee camp. Mohammad Hassan Sarhan was wounded in the abdomen by the settler's bullets. He was transferred to hospital for treatment.

In Tarqumia, the home village of Tahsin Fatafta, who was killed during the seventh Land Day protests, March 30, youths stoned Israeli vehicles, injuring two settlers.

Protest in Jerusalem was sparked off by the attempt of some ultra-religious settlers to pray in al-Aqsa Mosque. Reports said demonstrators emerged from the mosque forecourt into the narrow streets shouting anti-occupation slogans. Israeli soldiers were reported to have closed Damascus Gate and chased the demonstrators, arresting a number of them.

In Nablus there was yet another curfew on the Qasabeh quarter as well as on Ain Beit al-Ma' refugee camp. Demonstrations and stone throwing were reported in both places. One Israeli was injured at the refugee camp.

In mid-afternoon two Israeli soldiers and two local youths were wounded after a grenade was thrown at a military patrol near al-Watani Hospital. The hospital area was curfewed.

Demonstrations were also reported from Qalqilia and Jenin. In Jericho, three petrol bombs were hurled at a police station. It is not known whether there were injuries.

On the evening of April 6, two Israeli women were wounded by stones thrown by unidentified attackers. Youths attacked with stones an Egged bus which runs between Jerusalem and Neve Ya'acov settlement, as it passed inShu'fat, shattering the windows and injuring the two women.

Gaza Strip

Students from al-Faloujeh Secondary School for Girls and other schools in Jabalia refugee camp on the outskirts of Gaza held a march, April 5, to protest poisoning in the West Bank. Israeli troops used tear gas to disperse the protesters. One day earlier, students from the Islamic University refused to enter classes and held a sit-in in the university main yard. Youths hung placards and hoisted Palestinian flags on the school buildings. Israeli troops forced their way inside the walled campus, dispersed students and detained a number of them.

The Dawn

AL-FAJR

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Publisher:
Paul A. Ajlouny
Editor-in-chief:
H. S. Siniora
Managing editor:
Sam'an Khoury

Hatem al-Ta'ee Street
Tel: (02)281035
POB 19315
East Jerusalem

Telex nos:
Jerusalem: 26467 omar il
Washington: 64677 omar uw

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HOME COSTS A FORTUNE

The following Editorial was not allowed to be Published in Jerusalem.

On April 3, a 65-year-old Palestinian woman was rushed to hospital. She was lying in a pool of her own blood in her kitchen and according to her doctor's report she had a fractured skull and broken bones. She suffered her horrendous injuries because she refuses to leave her Old City home coveted for over a decade by religious settlers.

Fatmeh Abu Mayyaleh lived on the lower floor of a building in old city Jerusalem that was originally inhabited by 12 Palestinian Arab families. Through the 16 years of occupation the carrot and/or the stick forced out 10 of them.

Fatmeh Abu Mayyaleh and her 70-year old husband Ibrahim, stubbornly refused to quit their home. This cost them dearly. For years they have been abused verbally attacked physically, their windows have been smashed repeated ly and their neighbours make noise late into the night to disturb them. Obviously the love of the old couple for their small home causes these Zionists such problems that they resort to the acts of early days of Zionism.

The terror policy of threatening to kill and carrying out such acts, in and around the Zionist settlements during the first half of this century succeeded, to a certain extent in promoting the evacuation of the land. Tens, hundreds and thousands of Palestinians were killed in the course of Zionist terror between 1919 and 1948.

After the creation of their state Zionists resorted to more sophisticated tactics of legalism to impose their plans. But the system did not work as efficiently. Settlers of all sorts still believe that the only way to carry on with their tasks is to go back to the spirit and letter of Zionist teachings. Thus old men and women are transformed into a scourge to be eradicated with use of force.

However, this is a double-edged weapon. The existence of people like Fatmeh Abu Mayyaleh becomes an inspiration to the whole of the Palestinian people. The love she and people like her have for their homes, even if it costs them their lives, inspires greater steadfastness and determination. Every Palestinian in the world respects and salutes Fatmeh Abu Mayyaleh.

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Occupation: The Source of Poison and Poisoning

New cases of gas poisoning occurred the day before yesterday, Sunday, in the Anabta Tulkarm and Hebron areas. The number of new cases is 410, bringing the total number of those affected in the occupied West Bank to 490.

The attempt of the Israeli rulers to hang responsibility (for these events) on "extremist" elements in the West Bank aiming to 'inflame' feelings in preparation for Land Day, has been completely exposed as despicable, farcical and wretched. It reveales the "fertility" of the racist imagination of the Israeli occupation.

The Israeli rulers' accusation that the PLO carried out this act has provoked violent anger among the people in the occupied territories and incredulity locally and world-wide. Who can believe that the Palestine Liberation Organisation, this people's leader and protector of their health, future, freedom and independence, could carry out a mass poisoning of the Palestinian people?

When one claim or another came to nothing, the sick racist mind of the occupation produced a new lie. The head of the so-called civil administration on the West Bank, General Elia, uttered the strange and surprising "explanation" that there was no poisoning nor any poisonous material... only "mass hysteria' among the residents of the occupied territories, aroused by "suspicious" elements, without any medical basis.

These racist and absurd words are completely shattered by harsh reality. Do girls fall unconscious with dilated pupils, blue extremities, and strong pains as did these by merely suffering "mass hysteria" or are they the results of sickness and poisoning?

The Jordanian Doctors' Union (Jerusalem branch) issued a declaration refuting the lies of the 'civil administration' and leading figures of the occupation, indicating that the cases were the result of real poisoning and that symptoms are: dizziness, general weakness, detraction of muscles in addition to blue extremities, dilation of the pupils, vomitting, trembling, choking and, sometimes, loss of consciousness.

The information which has reached us shows that some soldiers and members of the 'border guards' have also been affected in the Jenin area and have been taken to Afula Hospital for treatment... and the occupation authorities have distributed masks to members of the army and border guards... doesn't this in itself demolish the lies of the head of the 'civil administration' about "mass hysteria"? Isn't this proof of real cases and of the existence of real reasons for these cases?

We have no trust in the declarations of the occupation. We have known for years that it is ready to lie and hide the facts. Can we possibly believe the declarations of this occupation which said that its soldiers fire bullets "in the air" when Palestinians are wounded?

We call for the formation of an impartial professional investigation committee to find out the truth and punish those who the investigation discovers are responsible for the mass poisoning... We also give total support to the demand for the establishment of an international investigation committee to look into the mass poisoning, the continuation and spread of which gives rise to extreme anxiety.

We have no doubt that the occupation which poisons the body of the whole occupied territories and of the Palestinian people is the background against which the new cases of poisoning have appeared. The disappearance of this terrible and cowardly occupation is the guarantee of the restoration of the general health of the occupied territories and its people! (Translation: Al Ittihad, April 5, 1983)

A CONSISTENT ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT SHOULD IDENTIFY WITH THE STRUGGLE OF THE PLO

PNC Charts Strategy for Palestinian Rights and Peace

The resolutions of the 16th Palestine National Council deserve the full attention of all those living in the Middle East, and especially the Palestinians and the Israelis. These resolutions were the fruit of deep discussion, unprecedented in breadth, in which all the tendencies and the forces inside the Palestinian people took part. In fact, during the six months that passed since the departure of the PLO fighters from Beirut, the leadership bodies of the PLO held incessant discussions in the various national institutions, which penetrated into every Palestinian house.

In the Palestinian press, in declarations and in speeches, a balance sheet of the Lebanon war and the heroic battle of Beirut was drawn, and the way forward was discussed. During the nine days of the council, unlimited speaking time was allotted to every political current in the Palestinian movement. The existence of different views in such a wide movement that democratically represents four million Palestinians should not be surprising, and the decisions that were adopted after such a democratic discussion carry much weight.

Independence and Unity

In spite of the heavy pressures exerted on the PNC and the attempts of external elements to deepen the divisions and split the PLO, the PNC succeeded to safeguard its unity. Above all, what made unity possible was the defence and strict observance of that principle upon which the Palestine revolution was established, the principle of the independence of Palestinian decision-making.

Danger of Annihilation

The PLO withstood in the summer of 1982 an Israeli attempt to annihilate the Palestinian problem once and for all. Begin and Sharon hoped that after the war there would be no more PNC and no more PLO. But the historic failure to defeat the PLO in Beirut pushed them only to sharpen the war drive in order to reach their fascist goal.

With the full backing of American imperialism they organised the Sabra and Shatila massacre and have prevented any rehabilitation of Palestinian life in Lebanon up to this very day while preparing for the next stage of the war.

In the West Bank and Gaza Strip they launched a murderous campaign of land robbery, oppression and acts of terror against the local population. In spite of all the talk of peace, the Israeli war to eliminate the Palestinian people and against the Arab world is continuing full steam ahead.

No to Zionism
No to Reagan

The conclusions that the PNC drew concerning the genocidal war against the Palestinian people were unequivocal: "The Zionist massacres in Sabra and Shatila and other places" — they wrote in the preface to the resolutions — "are nothing other than expressions of the fascist Zionist American conspiracy to terrorise and disperse our people. They also revealed the fact that the racist Zionist entity used Nazi ways and means."

The total American support to Israel and the "US's attempts to invest the results of the war in its plans for achieving hegemony over the region and eliminating our people's cause" were condemned by the PLO explicitly. The PNC also "refuses to regard the Reagan plan as a sufficient basis for a just and lasting solution of the Palestinian problem."

The PNC also rejected the Camp David accords that were, as is known, the introduction to the Lebanon war in that they freed Begin's hand to strike the northern front without fear, and to advance his campaign for a "greater Israel."

Palestinian Action

On the background of the realistic evaluation of the mortal danger for the Palestinian people, Palestinian action that is guided by the principle of national unity on all levels was based on the drive to mobilise the full human, spiritual and material resources for the struggle for national independence.

Building the independent identity of the Palestinian person strengthening the steadfastness of the Palestinian masses against attempts to expell and terrorise them, deepening the mass organisations of the workers, students, peasants and pupils, both men and women in popular unions, bolstering the morale of the thousands of political prisoners that are rotting inside Israeli prisons all these constitute the core of the Palestinian struggle. At the same time, the PNC determined the necessity for the Palestinians to act on the Arab level for "deepening the cohesion between the Palestinian revolution and the Arab national liberation movement in the whole Arab nation, in order to actively confront Zionist and imperialist conspiracies." It also determined that the relations with the Arab states should be based on Arab commitment to the Palestinian cause, adherence to the rights of the Palestinian people including their right to return, to self-determination, and to an independent state under the leadership of the PLO and on the rejection of all attempts to undermine the PLO as the only representative of the Palestinian people.

On the basis of these principles, and in an attempt to consolidate the Arab front behind the PLO, the PNC decided to regard the Fez Arab summit resolutions as the minimum for the political activity of the Arab states, which should be combined with military action on all levels, in order to change the balance of forces to the favour of Palestinian and Arab national rights.

Another pillar that was emphasised in the PNC concerning the Palestinian national struggle, that has become in our time a strategic component in every national liberation struggle, is the building of international solidarity and cooperation with the forces that are fighting imperialism.

On this level, the PNC ratified the need to deepen and develop, "the alliance and friendship between the PLO and the socialist countries, primarily the Soviet Union, and various international progressive and liberation forces," while putting special emphasis on the non-aligned countries, and the Islamic and African states.

Acknowledging the dangers to world peace that are inherent in the continuation of the conflict in the Middle East, and recognising the importance of the struggle for international legitimacy, the PLO expressed its appreciation of the Brezhnev plan. A deep appreciation was expressed toward the Jewish forces that opposed the Israeli war in Lebanon, whom the PLO sees as partners not only to negotiations but in dialogue and for building a common life and future as well.

The PNC reaffirmed the continuation of striving for cooperation and discussion with democratic forces in Israel, and the warm welcome that the Israeli reporter who covered the congress — Amnon Kapelyuk recieved was one sign of that.

Reaffirmation of Strategy

The Algiers congress signifies above all a reaffirmation of the strategy that guided the Palestinian revolution from its first day in 1965.

The heroic steadfastness of the Palestinians in besieged Beirut during 88 days deepened the unity of the whole Palestinian people and its confidence in the PLO's leadership. It was the decisive proof that there exists no other way to unify the Palestinian people, and fill the lives of a people of persecuted refugees with a national and political content.

The democratic and anti-imperialist programme that was forged through years of struggle and that forms the basis of the policies of the PLO was also reaffirmed in Algiers.

Based on this programme, the Palestinian people were able to withstand imperialism and Zionism and win international recognition. Moreover, this programme has an enormous significance for the Jewish working class and the democratic forces in Israel in their fight to put an end to the endless wars and the undemocratic character of Zionist policies and practices.

Beirut - The Acid Test

The challenge that the democratic and progressive forces in Israel are facing in the aftermath of the PNC is a difficult one. The Palestinian people that sacrificed tens of thousands of its very best sons and daughters as victims in the Lebanon war and in Beirut decided unequivocally that it will continue its struggle for independence, democracy and peace until victory. It is the duty of those inside Israel who are ready to face reality without prejudice to draw their conclusions from the events of the last year as well.

One cannot evade the fact that Zionism proved in Beirut that it used the whole military and economic might that it had built in order to liquidate the Palestinian people as a national entity, and that for this aim all means are justified.

The battle of Beirut was an acid test in which Zionism, on the one hand, and the PLO, on the other hand, were tested. Peace forces in Israel should know to distinguish between these two camps, one which leads to hellish war while the other to peace and democracy.

The key question for a consistent anti-war movement should be its identification with the struggle of the PLO and its central political demand to establish an independent Palestinian state. Just as there is no peace without the Palestinians, there is no recognition of the Palestinians without recognition of the PLO, and support for the establishment of an independent state under its leadership.

All those who are ready to draw the conclusions and to march towards peace will surely find the stetched hand of the Palestinians, who proved in Beirut and in Algiers to be faithful allies to building a democratic and truly peaceful society. (Translation: Derech-Hanitzotz, No. 8, April 1983)

PLO fighters leave Beirut. Since their departure "the leadership bodies of the PLO held incessant discussions. . . which penetrated into every Palestinian house."

From *Der Speigel*

THE TESTIMONY OF A LEBANESE PRISONER HELD AT THE ISRAELI DETENTION CAMP OF ANSAR

The Other Side of the War: A Lebanese Detainee Tells His Story

Friday, July 2, 1982. 4:30 am. We hear voices addressing the village through loudspeakers: "Good morning, dear citizens. Today is a blessed day, the day of Ramadan." But then the friendly tone changes to one of military orders: "All citizens between the age of 15 and 75 must present themselves at Husseiniyeh (the Shi'ite Muslim community centre) in the centre of the village before 5.00 am. All those who hide, try to run away or do not appear, will be shot immediately."All approaches to the village are blocked by the Israeli invasion forces with the help of local agents, who know every hide-out and every street. Slowly people emerge from their houses. Hundreds of Israeli soldiers, weapons at the ready, in tanks and reconnaissance half-tracks, create a ring around the centre of the village.

Lebanese collaborators and informers in the service of Israel were also armed. God, I did not want to believe my eyes! People who for years had fought with the Lebanese National Forces, alongside PLO fighters against Israel, were holding the same Kalashnikovs, but now wearing Israeli uniforms. These people are the best weapons the Israeli army has against us. They can turn every one of us over to the Israelis, innocent or guilty. They are responsible for the list of names which the Israelis use to infiltrate amongst us.

The whole operation ended up with only a few "guilty." The local officer of the Israeli occupation forces did not like this. He decided to choose for himself the "guilty" from the "free of guilt." "*Inta, inta, inta,*" (You, you, and you). All of them were young people, all of them innocent. I was among them.

All of us got a piece of paper. On it was written name, the name of village and the category of "crime." It was all in Hebrew, so I did not know what I was accused of. As we got into Israeli buses, the soldiers forced us to blindfold ourselves with shirts. We travelled for about half-an-hour until we reached Safa fruit preserve factory in Gaziyeh in South Lebanon. There they ordered us to remove our blindfolds. In the middle of the room the Israelis had arranged crates of fruit. Everyone who was sent to the other side of the crates was to be sent to Israel, according to detainees who had been there before.

More and more buses and trucks appeared, full of prisoners from all over South Lebanon. From the different groups, some were taken for interrogation. One man from my group returned completely white. His whole body was trembling and he could hardly speak. He said, "You must have heard us screaming. Apart from the interrogation officer, there are three Israeli soldiers in the room, holding gigantic truncheons. You just about manage to exchange a word with the captain, when blows fall on you from behind." Whoever said they were a teacher, got hit more than anybody else and the Israelis said, "You didn't teach your students any manners. In any case, you organised them politically."

Whoever was a merchant heard: "A merchant needs capital and you got it from the terrorists or else they lent it to you."

To students, the interrogation officer said: "A student needs money to study; you get it from the terrorists."

Journalists were beaten for writing against Israel.

From bank workers they wanted to know about Abu al-Houl's, the head of PLO intelligence, account.

The interrogation lasted from between 10 minutes to many hours and even half a day. In one day they would interrogate ten to twelve people.

At night the ground was our bed, the sky our cover. Above all we suffered from the dawn dew which soaked our shirts before the sunrise. We trembled with cold, as if it was midwinter. From lying on the bare ground we all got diarrhea. On the third day, late in the afternoon, the Israelis set up empty fruit crates like a wall behind which stood the informers. We had to pass in front of them. On the backs of those detainees who were to be sent to Israel, the captain wrote something in Hebrew

I hoped to be one of the fortunate destined to be released. The following morning I would see my family again.

But things turned out differently. The next morning, Israeli officers took me and others from our group and put us with a group about to be sent to Israel. Why? What happened? We never found out. The first place we reached in Israel was Nahariya. When the bus stopped, some Israeli women got on and began to shout, swear and spit at us. They were hysterical and uncontrollable. They took off their shoes and beat us with them. The Israeli guards watched and laughed. Our hands were tied and we couldn't do anything. After a while we moved on till we reached 'Jiora' camp three-and-a-half hours later, where we were greeted with batons. We found out from the prisoners that 'Jiora' belonged to a special Israeli army unit and that interrogation experts waited for us.

After supper on the first day, everybody got Arabic bread and a piece of cheese and then the guards gave us woollen blankets. We wanted to go to sleep immediately, but the soldiers came with four big Alsatian dogs held on chains. They let the dogs loose among us and they bit us. Whoever looked or ran away, was beaten by the soldiers. Some of the youngsters, especially those between 15 and 16, began to cry in fear. They lay face-down on the ground and tried to protect their heads with their hands. But they also got hit. It was like a horror film.

Once the soldiers told us to undress. Three people equipped with portable pumps and tubes sprayed us with DDT. Afterwards each of us received pants, a vest, blue trousers, a khaki shirt, two wool blankets, a handkerchief, socks and old army boots, a plate and a spoon.

Each day brought new suffering; many of us were beaten with metal rods, on our testicles, on our hands — one prisoner had four fingers broken. They beat us on our backs, chests and on the soles of our feet. Once they hung me up by my feet and used me as a punch-bag. When somebody wanted drinking water, the soldiers pissed into the water pipe and the young man was forced to drink.

Once they blindfolded us and took us to the sports field of the nearby village. There we discovered we had to take part in a game of football. The soldiers told us to form a team to play against the village team. The result was that people from the village threw empty bottles and boxes at us, because for them we were "terrorists."

Sometimes they tried to destroy us psychologically, so they left the body of a dead prisoner with us for nights. Sometimes they made us run around the camp like animals, beating us with batons and whips. Under orders we had to repeat: "Pickles, beans, onions, potatoes."

For a whole week we had to remain sitting down, sometimes with our hands on our heads and we were forbidden to get up except to go to the toilet. That first week was known as the guest week. Afterwards we belonged to the "house" and we were regarded as old prisoners. Then we were allowed to use the showers and move around the camp freely.

The hardest days were Friday and Saturday, because Saturday is their holiday. At dawn on Friday the soldiers began to get drunk. When they were drunk they chose some of us at random and beat us, shouting at us with voices full of hatred.

The war in Lebanon reached its end and a cease-fire was arranged. This encouraged us in the camp to think we would soon be released. There were 44 detainees left in the camp. But 500 new ones were brought. Still in Ramadan, on July 18, we were all sent to another camp. There we saw the familiar faces of friends and this deepened the hope of release. The following morning, the soldiers divided us into 12 groups, 44 people in each, so that we could be taken away in 12 buses. Each prisoner had to take his belongings and his blanket. Why the blanket? One of the detainees answered: "Don't be too happy too soon. Before they caught me, I heard that the Israelis were setting up a big detention camp in Ansar in South Lebanon. I think they've decided to take us there." As I got onto the bus, an Israeli soldier smiled at me and said: "You're happy, right? You're going home. Back to Lebanon. Good. So be happy a bit longer."

The journey took three-and-a-half hours. When they freed us from the handcuffs and blindfolds, we found ourselves in front of a huge concentration camp, Ansar, the largest detention camp in the Middle East. It is near the village of Ansar to the west and to Damour in the east. In the period I was held there, the camp was divided into 23 small units, each one holding 500 detainees. There were around 10,000 detainees: Palestinians, Lebanese, Syrians, Iraqis, Indians, Turks, Egyptians, Yemenis, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis. From Bangladesh alone there were 750 detainees.

The camp was a large network with watchtowers. The Israeli guards were armed with heavy batons. Opposite each tent, there was a continuous 24-hour guard of three soldiers. They gave us a camp number and a tent number and allotted us an Arab 'mukhtar.' "He," said the Israelis, " is empowered to punish you. He is the liaison between you and us. You must obey his orders because he represents the Israeli army."

After supper — a 200 gram box of *halaweh* (sesame paste) for 25 persons, and bread — the 'mukhtar' ordered us to go to sleep immediately. But many of us couldn't sleep because of painful wounds, the result of beatings we got during the journey. The 'mukhtar' beat with the butt of a hoe all those who cried, sighed, or moaned - the Israeli batons were not strong enough for him. The next morning he ordered us to stand with arms spread out like the wings of a plane. Those whose arms dropped were beaten. An Israeli bulldozer driver stopped nearby and laughed: "It's good to see an Arab beating an Arab."

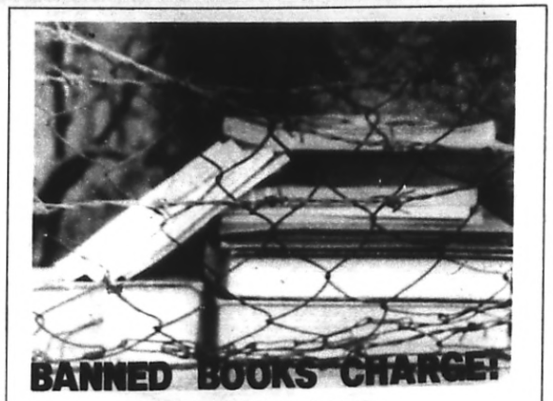
Things became chaotic when 'our mukhtar' slapped on old man who complained about the terrible food. The young men got hold of the 'mukhtar' and those under his protection. The hated man lay on the ground and we kicked him. In a flash, Israeli soldiers appeared and fired warning shots. That

continued on page 10

. . . . . Any person caught by the authorities with these materials, particularly political activists, are subject to an 18-day detention without formal charge or legal counsel while the suspicious material is sent to someone whom military government officials assure lawyers is an 'expert', to determine the materials' inflammatory content.

Thus, the "offenders" are conveniently available for intensive interrogation, which is rarely connected with the charge directed against them. Interrogators instead probe the detainee for names of activists, descriptions of people and events, and accompany their questions with threats and intimidation. Thanks to "flexible" military orders, much of the material seized is not even illegal but "many victims prefer at the end of their interrogation to plead guilty and pay a fine rather than spend more time in prison waiting for a trial," Lea Tsemel, an Israeli lawyer who often pleads such cases, told *Al Fajr*.

Hamdi Farraj, a journalist from Dheisheh camp, was arrested for 35 days and fined IS7500 last year for allegedly having "banned books" in his home. On March 30, 1982, 70 soldiers raided his refugee camp house and took away all of his books, including documents and journalistic reports. He told *Al Fajr* that the investigation which followed concentrated on his journalistic writing and political activities. He was told throughout his interrogation that the books were being examined by an expert. "After five court hearings on my case were postponed, ' he said, 'they (the prosecution) came up with 12 'banned books'." His lawyer, Lea Tsemel, had refused to accept the charge, but after she discovered that Hamdi would continue to be held, her client preferred to pay the fine and be released. In addition to the fine, Hamdi was sentenced to six months imprisonment, suspended for 3 years. Of the approxi-



BANNED BOOKS CHARGE: PRETEXT FOR INTERROGATION

mately 1000 books which were taken by the Israelis from Hamdi's house, none have been returned. He suspects they were all destroyed. "This is more evidence," said Hamdi, "that the Israelis just want to take revenge on Palestinian political activists... since the rest of the books are not illegal."

Radwan Abu Ayyash, another Palestinian journalist and a member of the Palestinian Journalists Union's administrative board, underwent a similar experience in mid-1982. He was detained for 12 days and finally released after a high bail of IS50,000 was paid. When he was put on trial earlier this year, he was convicted and fined IS10,000. The charge: that he possessed a pamphlet, issued by the Palestinian Journalists Union, in a military area Ramallah. According to Abu Ayyash his interrogation had nothing to do with the pamphlet. In any event his lawyer, Felicia Langer, said in court that the pamphlet was issued by a legal body and had a permit. (Publications which are legal within the 1948 borders may be considered "banned" publications in the occupied territories if they do not have distribution licenses from the military. For example, the mere carrying of *Al Talia* newspaper, legal in Jerusalem, to Ramallah is an offence punishable by imprisonment.)

Sam'an Khoury, editor of English *Al Fajr*, was interrogated 10 hours last October, then arrested and held for 17 days without being formally charged. After being kept in solitary confinement and unable to speak to his lawyer, Khoury was finally accused of having had two copies of a banned publication at his Jerusalem press office. He was convicted and given a 1-year suspended sentence, IS2500 fine and 17 days active imprisonment, which he had served while under interrogation for what his jailers hoped, no doubt, would be a more substantive "crime."

University students have also been targets for this kind of harassment. . . . . . January 1, by West Bank universities, the Israeli forces conducted night raids on campus, breaking into student offices, confiscating books and posters, and arresting many students, including the entire student council of Najah University. But Bir Zeit University was not raided. Instead, the army conducted late night raids on student homes in Bir Zeit town. Five students were arrested, and eleven others were summoned for interrogation because "illegal literature" was seized. The five were eventually released, without charge, after several days exposure to the Ramallah prison barracks, and intensive interrogation. Questions focused on the celebration, its organisers and speakers, while the so-called "illegal literature" elicited very little attention.

Even people already harassed under town arrest are not excluded. Shortly before her latest town arrest was supposed to expire, Leila Mir i, an ex-student council member at Bir Zeit University, was summoned to Jenin military headquarters in early February and then escorted to Ramle prison. Israeli forces had searched her house and found "illegal literature." On February 16 in Nablus military court, Leila was presented with a charge sheet which, in the words of the officer in charge of the search, noted the discovery of such items as a "sarcastic" Christmas card from students at Bir Zeit University protesting the university's closure. In addition, Leila was accused of possessing "inciting material": a poster affirming 'we shall not be expelled from our land.' Lea Tsemel told *Al Fajr* that other West Bank Palestinians have been detained on charges such as possessing photos of the Sabra and Shatila massacres. She added that despite the fact that the judge scolded the prosecutor for an inadequate charge sheet, Leila was remanded for eight more days so that interrogators could seek additional evidence, after the military prosecutor passed a secret note to the judge.

Books Banned in the West Bank

Al Fajr reprints below the titles of 91 books banned in the West Bank by the Israeli military authorities. In the coming weeks, *Al Fajr* will continue the list as published for the first time in cumulative form by the Israeli Defence Forces, September 20, 1982, under the title *Decrees, Orders and Stipulations: Order Regarding Hostile Propaganda*. The order is dated Janaury 18, 1977 and is issued by Yehoshua Bar David, censor, who writes in the introduction:

> Based on the authority granted to me in accordance with Aritcle No. 88 (A) from Defence Regulations (State of Emergency) 1945 and Article 8 regarding the prohibition of works of hostile propaganda (Judea and Samaria) No 101 for the year 1967 and as I believe that the order is necessary for purposes of security and public order, I hereby issue the following order... It is probihited to import or print or distribute the publications listed below this order. All orders regarding prohibited publications which were issued before the date of this order are repealed. The effective date of this order is January 26 1976.

מנשרים, צווים ומינויים

סדר

אזור יהודה ושומרון

מנـاشير ، اوامـر وتعيينـات

Order Regarding Hostile Propaganda

Title	Author	Place of Publication Publisher
Smiles on His Lips	Yousef al Saba i	Cairo Khanjee Institute
Sons of Vipers	Saad Juma'a	Lebanon Dar al Katib
Twelve Men	Yousef al Saba'i	Cairo Khanjee Institute
Love You, Love You Not	Mahmoud Darwish	Beirut Dar al Adab
The Best of My Poetry	Nizar Qabbani	Beirut Dar al Kutub
Contemporary Literary Men	Rajah al Naqash	Cairo Anglo-Egyptian Bookstore
Opinions of Soviet Literary Men and Leaders	Qadri Kalaji	Beirut Dar al-Kutub
The Land of Fate	Nuhad al Ghadri	Beirut Arab Press
Land of Hypocrisy	Yousef al Siba i	Cairo Khanjee Institute
Greater Israel	Assad Razooq	Beirut Research Centre
Illegal Israel Should Go	Elmer Berger	Beirut Commercial Office
Israel - The Daughter of Great Britain	Mohammad Ali Zu'bi	Cairo Eastern Library
Israel in the Balance	Mohammad Attieh Wakid	Cairo Dar al-Cahira
Israel An Enemy Base	Ali Mohammad Ali	Cairo Dar al-Qawmieh
Israel and Oil	Atef Suleiman	Beirut Research Centre
Israel Nest of Imperialism	Mohammad Attieh Wakid	Cairo Dar al-Qawmieh

Authors of books banned from importation, publication and distribution in the West Bank : Ghassan Kanafani, Mahmoud Darwish, Samih al-Qasem, Tawfiq Zayyad, Ali al-Khalili

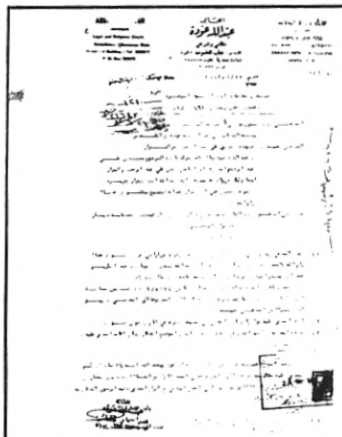
Secrets of the Jordan Battle	Khalid Mohammad Khalid	Cairo Dar al Cahira
Secrets of the Conspiracy	Omar Abu al-Nasser	Beirut .....
Secrets of Jordan Battles	Fuad al Qassas	Beirut Dar al Hadaf
Origins of Arab National Awareness	Abd al-Aziz Rifa'i	Cairo Modern Press
Spotlight on Israeli Propaganda	Munthir Anabtawi	Beirut Research Centre
Songs on the Nile	Saleh Jawdat	Cairo Nasser Library
Songs for Silence	Abd al Rahim Omar	Beirut Dar al-Katib al-Arabi
Suggesting the State of Palestine	Ahmad Baha al Din	Beirut Dar al-Adab
The Soviet Union and the Palestinian Cause	Salah Dabbagh	Beirut Research Centre
Zionist Colonization of Palestine	Fayez Sayegh	Beirut Research Centre
Israel: In Action and Speaking	Mohammad Hussein Dhahabi	Cairo Dar al-Nasser
Israel and Subjects of Commentary Books	Mohammad Abu Shahieh	Cairo Institute of Islamic Research
Islam Its Appearance and Spread in the World	Hamid Abd al Qader	Cairo Dar al-Nahda
Islam and Our Contemporary Causes	Ahmad Mussa Salim	Beirut Dar al-Jil
Islam and Political Problems	Sabri Tueimeh	Beirut Dar al Jil
Political Works	Nizar Qabani	Beirut Nizar Publications
Complete Works of Poetry	Nizar Qabani	Beirut Nizar Publications
The Flourishing of Jerusalem and Hebron	Mujir al Din al Hanbali	Amman Muhtasib Bookshop
The Lost Ones	Mahmoud Hassan Ismail	Cairo Minister of Education
Basic Training in Preaching	Ali Refa i	Egypt-Sbe'eh Bookshop
Israeli Infiltration into Asia	Asa'ad Abd al Rahman	Beirut Research Centre
Not Our World	Ghassan Kanafani	Beirut Institute of Arab Research
The Torah	Mustafa Mahmoud	Beirut Dar al-Awdeh
The Noble Arab Soldier	Muhammad Atieh al Abrashi	Cairo Zerka' Bookshop
Rhymes and Sorrows	Ramzi al Drunagy	Tripoli Ministry of Information
The Wall and Tears	Anis Mansour	Egypt Dar al-Shurooq
Love and the Soul	Abd al Salam al-Lajali	Beirut Dar al-Adab
The Second World War	Abbas Mahmoud al-Aqqad	
Secret Government in Britain	John Craig Scott(Translation)	Egypt Dar al Nasser
The Jewish Danger	Khalifeh al Tunisy	Cairo Kutub Siyasiyya
Al-Khamael	Elia Abu Madi	Beirut Dar el Elm Lilmalayin
The Arab Diplomat	Hassan Sa'ib	Beirut Dar el Elm Lilmalayin
Al-Duruz Outwardly and Inwardly	Mohammad Ali al Zughly	Beirut Dar el Elm Lilmalayin
State and Religion in Israel	Assad Razzuq	Beirut Research Centre
Religion for the People	Khalid M Khalid	Cairo Anglo-Egyptian Bookshop
White Planes	Abd al-Hamid al Sahar	Cairo Nasser for Printing
The Lost People Israel	Ahmad Yousef Ahmad	Cairo Dar al Qawmieh
Resistance Poetry in the Occupied Land	Haroun Hashim Rashid	Beirut Modern Bookshop
Poetry in the Struggle	Mohammad Hassan Ismail	Cairo Ministry of Education
Communism and Zionism	Maher Nassim	Egypt Dar Elma'aref
Palestine's Cultural Inheritance and Classes of People	Ali al Khalili	Beirut Dar al-Adab
Zionism, The Highest Stage of Colonization	Fathi al-Ramli	Cairo Press Agency
International Zionism	Abbas Mahmoud al-Aqqad	Cairo Dar al-Maaref
Zionism Exposes Jewish Decisions	(presented by) Ahmad al-Fakhy	Cairo the Mohammadan Year
Zionism in the '60s	Mahmoud Na'na	Cairo Dar al-Qawmieh
Zionism, Past and Present	Hilmi Mohammad Nijm	Cairo Dar al-Qawmieh
Zionism, Its Development and Social Effect	M Kfory	Egypt Halabi Press
Zionism, Foundation and Leadership	Arafat Hijazi	Egypt Halabi Press
Zionism and Masonism	Abd al Rahman Sami Ismat	Alexandria Rainsis Press
Zionism and the Palestine Cause	Abbas Mahmoud al Aqqad	Beirut
Zionism and Arab Human Rights	Assad Razzuq	Beirut Research Centre
Zionism and Its Pet Israel	Omar Rushdi	Cairo
Zionist Fifth Column	Jack Tuny	Cairo Dar al-Qawmieh
The Long Road	Najib al-Killani	Cairo Misr Bookstore
The Road to the Holy City	Abd al Hafiz Muhammad	Amman Dar Akhbar el-Usbu'
The Shadow and the Executioner s Rope	Assem al Jundi	Beirut Dar al-Katib al-Arabi
The Israeli Attack at the UN	George Deeb	Beirut Research Centre
The Arabs and Israel	Shakir Ammar	Beirut Dar al-Khashaf
Ideology and Strength Together	Mohammad al-Saman	Beirut Dar al-Jeel
International Relations	Mohammad Sami Abd al Hamid	Beirut
Guerilla Actions	Bert (Yank) Levi	Beirut Dar al-Adab
Poems of Tawfiq Zayyad	Tawfiq Zayyad	Beirut Dar al-Awda
The Arab Dawn	R.K. Karanjia	
The Palestinian Cause	Dhuqan al Hindawi	Beirut National Bookstore
. . . or Destruction	Said Juma'a	Amman Army Press
Night and Knights	Fadwa Tuqan	Lebanon Dar al-Katib
The Mapam	Lemia Majais	Beirut Dar al-Adab
Masonry - Foundation Owned by Israel	Mohammad Ali Zu'bi	Beirut Research Centre
The Arab Community and the Palestine Cause	Mohammad Mahmoud al-Sayyad	Beirut 'Urfan Bookstore
Kuwaiti Society	Muhammad Fawzi Saleh	Beirut Dar al-Nahda
Third Carbon Dioxide	Samih al Qassem	Kuwait Ministry of Education
Israeli Army Ideology	Haytham al Killani	Beirut Dar al-Talia'
Adolescence	Majda Attar	Beirut Research Centre
The Fugitive	Abd al-Karim al-Karmi	Beirut Damascus al-Nashr Bookstore

ANATOMY OF A FORGED LAND DEAL

The continued Palestinian effort to hold on to their land and their fierce resistance to any attempts to take their land away from them, continues to be a central nationalist preoccupation.

Israeli attempts to take over Palestinian land are pursued simultaneously on many fronts. In addition to public declarations of land grabbing and expropriations, Israelis, whether settlers or official representatives of land dealers, lose no opportunity to grab Arab land.

One of the ways in which Israeli individuals or companies make claims to Palestinian land is through forging and changing land deeds in order to suit their purposes and to facilitate their eventual possession of the land. Many such forgeries have been foiled. *Al Fajr* presents its readers with a current example of tricks used to 'legally' take over documented Arab land:



Court petition by Jerusalem lawyer Abdallah Odeh against the land dealer Odeh Hassan Abdel Rahim Bizar. Bizar replied to it on the same day.

A statement by Jewish lawyer Salman Horesh certifying that "on request from Odeh Hassan Abdel Rahim Bizar," he was given power of attorney. This document was drawn up in preparation for the land deal.

The southern district magistrates court in Ramallah issued a temporary injunction, March 12, halting all registration transfer procedures for 411 dunums of land belonging to Beitillu and Kobar villagers in the Ramallah district. The injunction was issued on the landowners' request to stop a fraudulent attempt to sell their land which, they fear, could now be earmarked for an Israeli settlement.

The land fraud, which actually took place one year ago, was discovered this February when some residents of Beitillu read a notice of *Hasar Irth* (estate settlement) published, as is usual, on request from the Islamic court in a local newspaper. The notice, published in the name of Zahiyeh Daoud Abdallah Bader, was intended as a claim for estate settlement for her late husband's property. The 70-year-old illiterate woman, said that she did not petition the Islamic court for an estate settlement, and that Odeh Hassan Abd al-Rahim, her relative, had done so.

Al Fajr learned that Bizar acted as the executor of his aunt's land holdings after he obtained her fingerprints and ID card, necessary for the transfer of her property, on the pretence that he wanted to obtain chemical fertilizers for her from the agriculture department in Ramallah. The chance discovery of the illegal probate by a relative of the woman, tipped off landowners from neighbouring villages Kobar and Beitillu to look into their own land registrations whose land was at the same time being marked by unknown land surveyors. They became alarmed that their lands may have been involved in the forged land deal as well.

The landowners immediately sought the advice of a Ramallah lawyer, who did not want his name published, who managed to obtain a complete file of the court cases and land registrations of the land plot in question. After examining the documents, the more than 30 landowners from both villages learned that Odeh Hassan Abd al-Rahim Bizar had sold a large land plot to Sabri Mousa Abu Tair of Sur Baher, near Jerusalem, in May 1982, almost one year before. The lawyer for Sabri Abu Tair was Jerusalem lawyer Abdallah Shukri Odeh, the lawyer of the assassinated Ramallah area Village League head, Yusef Khatib. (Khatib had sold land in his village of Bil'in to Israeli agents after he forged land ownership documents, more than one-and-a-half years ago.) This land sale, curiously, was notarized by a West Jerusalem lawyer known as Salman Horesh.

Among the documents recovered by the Ramallah lawyer from the Ramallah magistrates court was a ruling from the Ramallah-area Islamic court recognising Bizar as the sole owner of his grandfather's 14-dunum inheritance. There was another document, by his mother and his sisters which was also notarized by Salman Horesh, giving Odeh Hassan Abd al- Rahim Bizar power of attorney for his underaged brothers, to dispose of his inheritance as he saw fit. But *Al Fajr* learned that four alleged witnesses denied ever signing such a document.

Lawyer Saber Tawil of al-Bireh said that according to Islamic laws, the property of a legal minor can only be sold if money is needed for the education or medical treatment of the young person concerned, which was apparently not the case. The lawyer stressed that the conditions set out by the Islamic Court are to protect the rights of minors, which here appear to be willfully violated.

Making the deal even more sordid, Kobar residents say that Odeh's grandfather, Hassan Abd al-Rahim Bizar, did not leave any inheritance and had sold all of his land to them years before he died. Advocate Tawil, who also handled the Khatib fraud case for the legal landowners, showed an *Al Fajr* correspondent documents to verify the sales. The many land sale documents specified the size of each plot by the number of olive trees (a common method of sale at the time was by number of trees, and not by dunums). The Jordanian government's official land surveys were interrupted by the Israeli occupation of the West Bank in 1967, and so the land sale, like many others, remained unregistered with the government land department. The purchasers were unable to renew their registration effort under the Israeli authorities because, as all lawyers agree, the procedures are so complicated and expensive that it has proved virtually impossible. But Odeh Hassan Abd al-Rahim Bizar, who is said to carry a pistol at all times -- the only people who openly carry arms in the occupied territories are Israeli collaborators -- was able to get documents proving his ownership of the 14 dunum plot and thus completed the initial procedures of the deal.

On June 26, 1982, less than two months after the land deal was completed, the purchaser accused the seller, in a case before Ramallah magistrates court, of opposing his use of the land. In his petition to the court, Abu Tair's lawyer, Abdallah Odeh, demanded that the court order Bizar, the accused, to "suspend his opposition and to pay court costs." The lawyer also inexplicably beefed up the land area mentioned in the petition to 411 dunums.

In a speeded procedure that normally takes weeks to complete, Abu Tair's complaint was delivered to Bizar on the same day of presenting it to the complaints department at the Ramallah court compound (Qalam). Bizar also made his reply to the charge on the same day. Even stranger was the fact that the case was immediately heard by the court -- a process which seldom takes less than two months.

One day later, the court, which was presided over by Judge Mahmoud Abu Khdeir, arranged a settlement. The two parties agreed that the defendant would acknowledge the "right" of Abu Tair to the land, while the latter would drop his demand that he pay the court fees. The court decision was also in the judge's own handwriting. One lawyer, who declined to be identified, said according to standard legal procedures, decisions are written by a court secretary who signs his name next to that of the judge.

The court case was important because it served to affirm, by a judicial decision, that the area in question is 411 dunums, and not 14 dunums as the initial sale stated. According to Jordanian law which prevails in the West Bank (when it is convenient to Israeli interests), an unregistered land plot is defined only by its neighbours' borders. The "little game" played by the land buyer and his lawyer effectively legitimised the expansion of the land plot.

Villagers from both communities fear that more land may have been sold by the same land dealer. On February 12, residents from Beitillu ran into an Israeli land surveyor from Ofra settlement, in the Ramallah district, who was charting an estimated 6,000 dunums of land. The land surveyor, who was identified as Ya'acov Ehrlich, has reportedly told landowners that Israeli settlers had bought the land.

The settler revealed that three Israelis bought the land from Arab landowners. The landowners suggest that Abu Tair worked merely as a mediator between the land seller. Bizar and Israeli settlers. It is also said that the fraudulent land deed is already in the hands of the Israeli authorities in Beit El.

One of the landowners, who is actively pursuing the case, pointed out a news article in *Al Fajr* Arabic daily about the Israeli government's approval of the construction of 13 settlements in the West Bank. One of them, named Pitzav, is planned on the same land plot.

continued from page 7

Ansar Prisoner

did not stop us breaking some of the 'mukhtar's' ribs. An Israeli army committee investigated the incident and allowed us to chose a new 'mukhtar.' During the same period, the Israelis were ordered not to interfere in our affairs. We only saw them during the hours of daily routine.

On the afternoon of the Feast of the Sacrifice, we saw on the hills opposite, groups of women waving to us with kerchieves. We took our blankets and our handkerchieves and waved to them in reply. Since it was the first time we'd had any contact with the outside world, the whole camp was swept by a wave of joy. The young men shouted: "Allahu Akbar! There is no God but Allah! Struggle until victory!" and so on. Many cried. The Israeli soldiers got worried. They took up positions and fired in the direction of the women. This made us so angry that we threw stones at them. They fired at us. 28 were wounded, eight of them seriously. The wounded were taken away by helicopter. After order returned, a high-ranking officer came and told our 'mukhtar' that it wasn't worthwhile for the detainees to repeat such action; in any case, we were to be released soon.

Finally the time came. At 1:00 am, 19 detainees were summoned, myself included. We were told to be ready. In all, 225 people, all Lebanese, were released. The following afternoon, we passed through the gate. My whole body was trembling. I could not believe I was free.

We were divided into three groups; one in the direction of Nabatiyeh, one to Tyre and one to Sidon. In Nabatiyeh, in the main Israeli command, two officers met us. One of them said: 'We wish you all the best. We had to do justice; it took a long time, but in the end justice won."

I do not know what he was referring to.(Translation: Haaretz, 18. 3. 83)

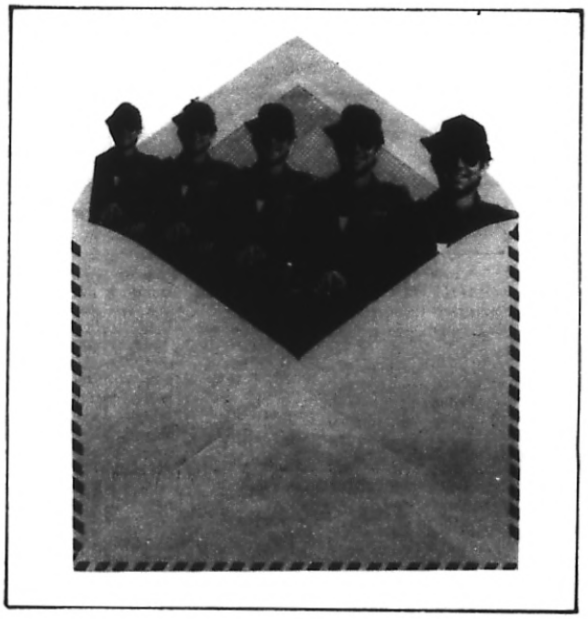
PALESTINE AND LITERATURE

A Bad Paper Between Me And the King of the World

by Marzouq Halabi

Marzouq Halabi, 23, a Druze from Daliet al -Karmel, has for two years refused compulsory service and has been arrested several times. Two weeks ago he was summoned to meet Israeli senior officers and he told them that he refuses to serve in the army for reasons of conscience. Marzouq considers himself a Palestinian.

The ministry of education teaches the history of the Druze separately from that of the Arabs. Druze students have a special curriculum. Israeli officers from time to time deliver lectures at Druze schools focussing on the 'alliance of blood' between the Druze and the state of Israel, and the importance of the loyalty of the Druze to the state. Druze students in the secondary schools usually go to the army twice for five to six weeks for military service. The ministry of education has published a set of books called *The Druze Heritage*, introducing elements taken from the Druze religion to say that the Druze are not Arabs.



A badly typed paper which was slipped into an envelope in haste, perhaps the soldier or the employee who enclosed it has an appointment or he has to slip other papers into envelopes. Perhaps in all probability he was forcing himself to do such work.

I read it. Pardon, even before reading it I understood its contents from my own premonitions. The paper summons me for service in the reserve army for five weeks. Where? Farfoul himself does not know where... perhaps in the occupied territories: Jenin, Nablus, the old Jerusalem of Fairuz, perhaps in occupied Beirut. Perhaps I will be given a special secret mission in South Africa, Chile, Guatemala — or perhaps to strike an atomic reactor in a hostile country. Perhaps... perhaps.

Hence very simply and contrary to your sense of human freedom, you must get out of your clean clothes which smell of perfumed soap leave your papers, pens, books, lecture halls and apologise to your sweetheart who will wait unwillingly for you to sip a Turkish coffee or tea or Palestinian coffee... You must uproot yourself from your life like a small grass and plant yourself in another life, you have to wear dirty clothes that scores of other soldiers wore previously, to put your feet in heavy shoes of the Second World War era with their faded colours. Woe to you if the shoes do not fit.

Yes, a small paper but the most serious matter is that it is typed badly with some confused and crooked writing on it. A despised paper like this will shackle your hands and legs, bandage your eyes and lead you to any place that it wills and when it wills and how it wills. Therefore in simplicity it takes you away from your world and life and places you in the world of another man. You go around his orbit, you sit, stand and go according to his will and mood or according to his relation with his wife or lover — exactly according to his ambitions and his self-delusions.

He says: Sleep, I sleep.

He says: Stand up and I stand up.

He says: Jump onto the American bulldozer, I jump onto it.

He says: Be like a machine without feeling or sensation, and my feeling and sensation die and I become like the machine.

He says: Sleep upside down and I sleep upside down.

He says: Catch this M-16 and carry the bazooka upon your shoulders and I catch the M-16 and carry the bazooka upon my shoulders.

He says resolutely, Death for all. I say in artificial resoluteness Death for all.

He says: Death for their animals, cats, dogs, chickens and I say death for their animals, cats, dogs, chickens.

In this way the high master, the king of kings orders you. You are like a ring around his finger, like gum between his teeth.

He wants you to be without opinion, will, feeling or conscience. Why should I be without opinion, will, feeling or conscience? What do you lack? What do you want? You eat three times per day, drink American Coca-Cola or Israeli crystal at each meal. Your clothes are foreign products. You fill your home with the electrical machines. Your car is a very modern six-cylinder with a stereo recorder in it. Do you need more than this? The king of the world does not think so.

I say to you... who has the madness of great symptoms, manifested in all his body limbs. You colour your eyelids with hope of entering history through their wide gates -- perhaps it is enough for you to enter through the keyholes of the gates. I say to you, Oh not dear sir, of what you and your strong-arm men would like to annihilate or discredit. I want to whisper in your ear something very simple: "Go and tile the sea. We have feeling, opinions, wills, and consciences. Take it easy, lower your voice a little and calm your anger. More tightening makes it loose." Dismount from your mule which is fed up with you and will throw you at the first opportunity.

Sir, our will today is more resolute and persistent. My feeling has more resolve and our loyalty has been rooted deeply. Our whispers are increasing and changing into shouts -- so you do not need the "human eavesdropping machines." Our opinions are very clear like the sun. You will harvest no profit by directing them by your very new scholastic books. Your intelligence man "the Shin Bet," the man camouflaged by the mask of teaching will not benefit you — I advise you to kick him. You will please him very much. He is too cowardly to tell you what happened exactly. There is something else I want to say — the affairs of your intelligence men are very strange. They know everything about what is happening in the village in every corner and on every inch of land or even in the sky above the village — but they know nothing about what is happening in their homes. I tried to understand this matter but could not.

The books you issued about Druze education cost you a lot but without harvesting any benefit — *vice versa*. Every lecture on Druze heritage has been changed into a lecture on sarcasm and irony against those who wrote them. In one moment a set of papers becomes a scholastic book, a set of follies and silliness becomes a reference for culture and knowledge.

Woe to humankind and its civilisation if its books look like these books issued by "the empire of education." Sir, burn them all — wait a minute, it is a shame to spend one match for them. It is better to collect them and put them in your oven to warm yourself in the coming winter which will bang at the doors.

I beg your pardon, sir — in your name I want to apologise for the worker in the printing house who wiped the sweat off his tired face. This worker visited the physician after each book he printed. O king of kings -- you are big, strong, a giant. You say to the world, Die, and it dies, Live, and it lives. You say to the sun, Rise, and the sun rises and the sun sets.

Raise up your nose to touch the clouds, to penetrate the clouds, to penetrate the sky. Why not? You are the greatest king in the world, the lord of the world — praise the lord of the world. I do not mock you but I even pity you. I think to stroke your royal head with my hand, to talk to you, to pay my condolences -- I die in pity whenever I see you shaking me from head to foot. You try to mobilise all your forces along the borders of your kingdom, to call the reserve, to call to arm our civilian defence forces, to send your spies to each corner and to gain information. You travel secretly to the "Pentagons" and stop in Lebanon to examine the files of Scotland Yard, then announce a state of emergency and its regulations are carried out. You put at your disposal the means to gather and spread information. You stop to think, then announce and broadcast. Your face is pale, you recoil within yourself confused, stutter, stand up, sit down, smile, grimace...

Every lecture on Druze heritage has been changed into a lecture on sarcasm and irony... a set of follies and silliness becomes a reference for culture and knowledge.

You, the king of the world, recoil within yourself, your nature is very strange and old? Shame for the king of the world to be like this, I cannot account for it. The soldier lowest in rank shouts or whispers and thinks that he possesses a will and an opinion, a feeling and a conscience. He considers himself a human being. We, sir, like the seed of the wheat, refuse to be crushed by the millstone and remain intact next year. It grows another plant. Our crops will not perish.

Pardon me, king of the world, for I revealed to your followers a side of your character and made a hole in the citadel of your kingdom. But I notify you and warn you that all will shout in your face with its disgusting appearance and repeat and repeat.

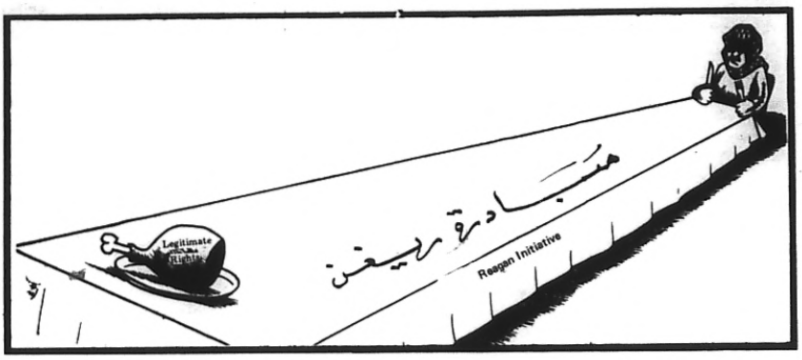
We are not without origin, torn-up people — Yes, Druze — but Palestinians or perhaps it is enough to say Palestinians. The order of the words will affect how much you recoil or extend. Oh you, king, who recoils and extends -- Ha...Ha...Ha... (I laugh against my own will.) Listen to me, king of the world, for a few moments. Be patient for a few moments then tear me up, destroy me, censor me, like an annoying word, and an article in a daily or bi-weekly newspaper.

Listen to me — my sentence is very short, you might think, but when it is spoken it will be longer than the lines of the railroads or perhaps longer than the streets of the world.

(Not) dear sir — STOP AND THINK.

(Translation: Al Jadid Magazine Sept. – Oct. 1982)

WINDOW ON THE ARAB PRESS



The mass poisoning in the West Bank was the main topic in the Palestinian press this week. Since the first cases were admitted to hospitals suffering from dizziness. headaches and vomitting. the West Bank school poisoning has reached the United Nations Security Council. Israeli allegations that the cause of the suffering is psychosomatic has been repeatedly refuted by Arab physicians quoted in the local Arab press.

West Bank demonstrations, stone-throwing incidents and curfews in protest at the poisonings have also been extensively covered.

Meetings between PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat and the Jordanian monarch King Hussein round up the week's top stories.

The Lebanese Example

Before those who support the Reagan plan now stands the "Lebanese example" with all its implications and results, as high-ranking Lebanese officials have admitted and which even American custodians have declared!

The Lebanese government has the choice of accepting the Israeli occupation of the south under the name of Saad Haddad or of confronting Israeli domination directly in this area for an indefinite time!

These results have been known to all Lebanese, Arabs and their friends around the world since the start, based on the experience of former Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and the Arab reactionaries, for decades.

However, the Lebanese foreign minister found no other suggestion to confront these results, at which the negotiations have got stuck, than to "threaten" other means. When "his highness' was asked about these means, he replied that he meant "returning to Washington"!

Dependence on American promises and the Reagan plan will lead to the same results in other occupied territories which the Lebanese rulers have reached, achieving far less than the promises guaranteed by the Reagan plan.

In Lebanon the "American promise" was of unconditional withdrawal of all "foreign" forces which, after negotiations, became "American occupation" in the shape of the multinational forces and Israeli occupation in the shape of Saad Haddad.

After all this, can those who promote the Reagan plan be believed when they claim that they want to save the land and grab the opportunity which, according to them, may never return?

Such allegations do not fall within the national spectrum but only mislead the masses with the intention of pushing through submissive plans. This is the true situation and how the masses understand it; this is the secret to isolation and the isolation of those who promote this plan.

AL TALIA
March 31

The Dangers Of a New Explosion

The clashes which occur from time to time in the Beqa'a and the statement made by a number of Israeli officials, arouse serious fears of new military confrontations in eastern Lebanon. The size or extent of any clash is hard to predict.

This fear is linked to the expected and inevitable stalemate in the American-Israeli-Lebanese talks as a result of the intransigence of the Israelis and because of absolute US support for their position.

News reports repeatedly talk of an Israeli military build-up in the Beqa'a and the Soviet Union has sent a strong warning to Israel. On the Arab side, there is a death-like silence hanging over the capitals, with the exception of Palestinian positions and Syria. The Arab countries seem to be more concerned with the price of oil and with trading and secondary issues than with the situation in Lebanon and with the possibility of confrontation in the Beqa'a.

The continuation of Arab impotence and allegiance to the US gives Israel encouragement and justification for its intransigent position and for the stubbornness of its policy towards Lebanon and towards the Palestinian cause.

AL SHAAB
April 1

Redressing The Balance

Soviet warnings to Israel may create a political crossroads in the Middle East, particularly as officials in the US and Israel have realised the seriousness of these warnings and have, as usual tried to misrepresent them.

Such warnings are not only important because they may be a deterrent to Israel, but also because it means the return of the Soviet Union to the region where the United States has been acting as the sole "lord and master" who must be obeyed. A return, in such a strong form, will make many people review their calculations especially the US and Israel and those Arabs who revolve in the sphere of an American settlement.

The absence of the Soviet Union shifted the balance of military and political power to American and Israeli favour. No doubt the Soviet return will make the Arab position in general, and the Palestinian position in particular, stronger and more capable of action and will open the door to a number of alternatives.

If Lebanon is the door to political solutions or negotiations, then the key is in Syrian hands, alongside the Soviet Union. This explains why negotiations on Lebanon have reached zero.

Without examining the reasons, even though it is important (to do so), there is no doubt that the place of the Soviet Union in the region has been shaken. Moscow is no more sorry for this than we are. We hope that the Soviet warning and the visit of leader Andropov to the region is the start of restoring the balance we have greatly missed.

AL MITHAQ
April 2

Arafat-Hussein Meeting

Palestinian-Jordanian talks began in Amman yesterday, headed by Yasir Arafat, head of the PLO executive committee, and King Hussein of Jordan, to discuss the latest development in the Palestinian issue and the efforts made to achieve a political settlement.

Arafat's meeting with King Hussein is of special importance since it is the first since the 16th session of the PNC. The PNC clearly defined the Palestinian position towards the so-called Reagan initiative and presented the Palestinian peace plan as represented by the Fez summit resolutions as the minimum for any political action in the region. It confirmed the importance of the Brezhnev plan.

While some observers imagine that King Hussein will join the "peace process" which Washington is promoting in the region, they have begun to make prophecies concerning the future of Palestinian-Jordanian coordination and are asserting that Arafat's current talks in Amman will be decisive in this field.

Even more than this, some hostile parties have emerged to promote the false news of a petition signed in the occupied territories, so they claim, asking King Hussein to negotiate in the name of the West Bank. These parties claim that the intended document is like the second Jericho conference giving total allegiance to King Hussein.

Knowing the extent of the disappointment of these parties, we assert that the Palestinian side to the Amman talks is able to view the picture from all sides and that King Hussein also realises that there is no initiative on the horizon encouraging him to break Arab ranks and rush towards the American bandwagon.

It is more likely that he will move towards crystalising a united Palestinian-Jordanian position to take to an emergency Arab summit expected to be held to put their responsibility before the whole Arab nation.

AL FAJR
April 3

TO PALESTINIANS LIVING IN THE DIASPORA:

If you need professional assistance including legal advice for buying, selling, renting or collecting rent in the West Bank, contact:

Omar International
P.O. Box 20185
Jerusalem

Tel. 972 (2) 283791 Telex 26467 Omar il

CBS DENIES ISRAELI CLAIMS THAT CREW STAGED POISONINGS

TV Crew Arrested Filming Poisoning Cases at Nablus Hospital

The Israeli police detained two US CBS TV network journalists for seven hours and confiscated their film, April 4, after they had filmed suspected poisoning cases receiving medical treatment in Nablus National Hospital. The director of the CBS bureau in Tel Aviv, Warren Lewis, denied Israeli claims that the crewmen had participated in recreating the poisonings.

Lewis told *Al Fajr* that the two Israelis, Moshe Ben-Dor and Avishai Dekel, working as camera crewmen for CBS, were arrested after they completed filming a story assigned to them by the bureau.

The Jerusalem Post said that the arrest was carried out on orders from the Israeli 'civil administration' in Nablus.

At the police station, the two journalists were questioned about alleged collaboration with local residents in incitement and violation of public order. The two journalists were released but the films they made were kept at the police station. The hospital was later declared a military area, off limits to civilians and journalists.

Lewis insisted that his crew had permission from the director of the hospital, who in turn had asked for authorisation from the military government. The CBS chief also denied that there was any staging of mock fainting or any other action by the students. "They filmed what they saw in the hospital," he said. Lewis said he has heard that charges have been dropped but he has not received official confirmation.

In a later development, Israeli radio reported that two hospital officials who authorised the filming were summoned to the military headquarters for questioning.

CBS bureau chief Lewis said that the area had not been restricted to journalists and that they did not commit an illegal act. "It is outrageous for a journalist to be arrested while doing his job," he said.

The head of the Foreign Journalists Association in Israel commented to *Al Fajr* Arabic daily that foreign journalists insist on their right to work freely.

Abna Al-Balad Activist Gets House Arrest Order

A Village League member from the village of Farkhah in the Tulkarm district was stabbed to death by unidentified attackers March 31. Israel Radio said the motive for the killing was a land dispute.

Abd al-Latif Hassan Hajaj, 30, mukhtar of Farkhah, was discovered dead in the front seat of his car at a stone barricade near the town of Salfit, on the Salfit-Farkhah road. The body was taken to the Israeli Abu Kabir hospital for autopsy. Israeli police started investigations into the case but have declined to give any information on the incident.

According to Israel Radio, quoting an unnamed security source, the incident resulted from a dispute over land. It alleged that Hajaj was involvedin arranging land deals with Israeli settlers.

Hajaj is the second leader of the Israeli-backed Village Leagues to be assassinated. Nearly one and a half years ago, Yusef Khatib, head of the Ramallah area Village League, was killed while driving from his village of Bili'in to League headquarters in Ramallah. He had been convicted of land forgery just prior to his death.

LAND DEAL SAID TO BE BEHIND KILLING

Village Leaguer Stabbed Near Tulkarm

Abna al-Balad activist Raja Aghbariyya from Um al-Fahm was ordered house arrested, March 29, for six months. This is his fifth order in the last three years.

Aghbariyya, a 29-year-old teacher, was served the order at his home as part of the pre-Land Day campaign against nationalist activists inside the 'green line' The administrative detention restricts him to the borders of Um al-Fahm at all times. He must remain in his home from dusk to dawn. The order was signed by Uri Orr, central district military commander, and cites "security" as the reason.

In 1981 Raja and three other leading members of Abna al-Balad were similarly restricted. The six-month orders were renewed three times in succession. After the High Court ordered the security services to show reasons for their repeted restriction, last year, the previous orders were allowed to expire.

Bulldozed Sharfat land and uprooted trees lie in view of encroaching Israeli settlement of Gilo./JN

IN SHADOW OF GILO SETTLEMENT ISRAELIS UPROOT TREES, BULLDOZE VILLAGE LAND

Settlers Seize Remaining Arable Land in Sharfat

Israeli settlers seized the last 1350 dunums of agricultural land from the small Palestinian village of Sharfat, south of Jerusalem, and began the groundwork for construction, March 23. The mammoth Gilo settlement, an Israeli Labour Party project dating from the mid-'70s and only half occupied, neighbours Sharfat.

Residents from the village said they were unsuccessful in stopping three Israeli bulldozers which began work on a hilltop overlooking the village. The workers said they have orders from the Solel Boneh, the Histadrut-owned construction company, to work the land. Meanwhile, bulldozers continue clearing work uprooting hundreds of fruit trees.

Members of the Masha'al family, who own more than 20 dunums of the seized land, said that the bulldozers have been working non-stop, even on the Jewish Saturday holiday and during Passover.

Residents also charge that the Israeli construction foreman has taken away olive trees that his men excavated.

Landowners noticed early in March that all the land on the southern edge of the village was being marked off by an Israeli land surveyor. When they inquired about it they were told that the land had been sold by some of the villagers. A second land surveyor said that the property had been confiscated. The Sharfat residents insist they have had no land confiscation papers from any Israeli party. They also say that no villager has sold any land, although one resident speculated that the mukhtar of the village might have sold one small plot to the Israelis. Since the village land is registered in the names of individuals with the land registration department (Tabu), it is fairly straightforward for an owner to check if forgery takes place.

In 1970, the then village mukhtar, Mohammad Hassan Ayad, father of the current mukhtar, sold a 22-dunum plot to settlers. When the legal landowner, Mohammad Othman Masha'al, learned about the sale, he presented his documents to the land registration department in Jerusalem, and was able to retrieve his property.

If the present land seizure succeeds, the village of 500 will become completely landless. Up until now, successive land grabs resulted in the transfer of more than 90 percent of the village's land to Gilo settlement. From a distance, the village appears to be surrounded by a ring of Israeli high-rise settlements which seem to be slowly closing in on the small Palestinian community.

Land grabs are not the only threat to the villagers. Several incidents of crop stealing by the neighbouring settlers were reported by the villagers. On other occasions, settlers are reported to have threatened residents with guns if they don't voluntarily leave their land.

WHEN DID THE EXPULSION OF PALESTINIANS BEGIN?

Rewriting Israeli History

Al Fajr contributor Thoma Schick noticed a recent letter in *Haaretz*. He writes:

Now that occupation and expulsion have become a "valid" fact, the occupiers have begun quarrelling about the validity of history. What is now accepted is that the evacuation of the Palestinian Arab population from what is now "Israel proper' (inside the 'green line') started before "the Arab states invaded the young Jewish state." A letter to the editor of *Haaretz* daily newspaper, on April 3, reads:

"In the New Evening' broadcast directed by Dan Margalit (March 27) there was a discussion of the Etzel (Menachem Begin's military organisation) action for the conquest of Jaffa in April '48. (It failed with considerable casualties on the Jewish side.)

"The interviewer asked the deputy commander of Etzel in that campaign why they acted without coordinating with the Haganah (the main military organsiation).

"He replied that they considered it vital to advance a separate campaign April 25 for two reasons – one, to cause the Arabs to flee. Historian Dr. Uri Milztein responded that Arabs had fled in large numbers ever since the massacre of Deir Yassin (April 4).

The second reason, according to the Etzel man, was that the Egyptians were at Ashdod and they threatened to move in the direction of Tel Aviv. This is a total distortion: the invasion by the Arab states started, as is well known, on May 15, 1948 and the Egyptian army reached Ashdod on May 28, 1948; that is five weeks after the failed campaign of Etzel against Jaffa.

Moshe Bar Ilan, Tel Aviv.

WEEKLY REVIEW

Inshirah Abeid Al-Houwari, mother of 4, was released from Ramle prison two weeks ago because of ill health, after having been there for 16 months. Her original sentence was 2 years effective 3 years suspended. She reported bad medical conditions in the prison and irresponsibility on the part of the Red Cross./SF

March 29, 1983

HELD FOR HELPING

LYDDA – Mohammad Burghal, a Lydda activist in Abna al-Balad, was held for 24 hours by police after a group of young men had finished voluntary work cleaning up the al-Wadi quarter of the town. The voluntary work was carried out to mark Land Day.

TEMPER TANTRUM

A settler from Givon settlement near the village of Jeeb south of Ramallah, chased the Palestinian driver of a car, Salah Hadidi. When he caught up with him the settler slapped him in the face while holding an Uzi machine gun in his left hand. The settler complained that the Arab driver had not let him pass.

END THE CURFEW!

The residents of Jalazon camp have issued a declaration calling for an end to the 4-week curfew measures against them.

ANSAR POW HERE

JERUSALEM – Makassed Hospital is treating an Ansar prisoner sent to them by the Red Cross. Ahmed Mohammad Hassan Mou ghrabi from the Libyan Republic is described as being in a grave physical and psychological condition. He cannot talk or move.

MORE TOWN ARRESTS

The military authorities imposed a town restriction order on unionist Yunis Tayim for six months. He must report to the police every Tuesday. Town restriction was also imposed on Mahmoud Abd al-Hafiz Id'is from Bani Na'im in the Hebron district for six months. He must report to the military every Sunday.

NOT OVER YET

Israeli sources said that 126 Israeli soldiers have been killed and 212 injured since the "end" of the war in Lebanon.

NABATIYEH POISONINGS

BEIRUT – Dozens of people in the Nabatiyeh region in South Lebanon have been poisoned by preserved foods. Reports say that the food eaten contains mercury and other substances which cause premature aging.

NOT POPULAR

TEL AVIV – The Israeli military spokesperson said that an Israeli soldier was wounded when a patrol on the Sidon road was hit by light-arms fire and bazooka rockets. The patrol returned fire and combed the area. Another Israeli patrol was fired on west of Ansar village in South Lebanon.

LEAGUES ON ISRAEL'S AGENDA

TEL AVIV – Brigadier Shlomo Elia, head of the Israeli 'civil administration' in the West Bank, said that there was no contradiction in his being a brigadier in the Israeli army while, at the same time, heading the civil administration in the West Bank.

He said that the aim of setting up a 'civil administration' was to lay the ground for what he called 'self-rule as outlined in the Camp David accords.' He said that the task of the 'civil administration' was to prepare local parties, such as the Village Leagues, to take on civilian tasks in self-rule and to be what he called a real leadership that could manage the West Bank. Elia made these statements in an interview on Israel Radio yesterday.

He said that the job of making the Village Leagues into an alternative leadership was only a matter of time. He added that a number of Israeli forces and movements were working in this direction, so that these leagues would be ready to talk with Israel.

March 30, 1983

CLASH IN LEBANON

The Israeli military spokesman announced that there was an exchange of fire between a number of armed Palestinians and Israeli forces in the area of Deir al-Hadath, east of the Beirut-Damascus road, Lebanon.

BLACKMAIL THREAT

Sources at Makassed Hospital said that prisoner Mohammad Bal'awi from Jenin, 27, who has been under treatment at the hospital since last December, is in dire need of medical treatment abroad. The authorities are prepared to give al-Bal'awi permission to travel abroad for medical care only if he renounces his right to return, sources said.

URBAN BUS PROTECTION

For the first time, a guard has been placed on buses travelling the number 25 route from the Neve Yaacov settlement near Beit Hanina to West Jerusalem, passing through Sheikh Jarrah, Shu'fat and Beit Hanina. A guard has been stationed because of fear of stone-throwing by Arab youths.

March 31, 1983

CLASHES. DAY 3

BEIRUT, AFP – Syrian and Israeli forces exchanged artillery fire in the Kamd al-Loz area in the Beqa'a for the third consecutive day. The Syrians and the Israelis are continuing to reinforce their positions along the cease-fire line and for the last six days have been digging trenches and strengthening their strongholds.

ANTI-SETTLEMENT DEMO

TEL AVIV – The Peace Now movement held a protest demonstration outside an exhibition of West Bank settlement housing units in Ramat Aviv. Peace Now members raised banners against settlement in the West Bank such as, "Settlement exposes you, your family and Israel to danger."

MASS ARRESTS

The Israeli authorities carried out a wide-scale campaign of arrests in the Galilee and Triangle. Seven persons from Sakhnin were detained, bringing the number of those arrested to 20. An officer of the northern region police has set up a special unit to question the detainees.

Israel Radio reported that the police released Beduin from the Naqab who had been arrested prior to the Land Day events.

April 1, 1983

NEW US WEAPONS

Yediot Aharanot wrote that special types of bullets and cannons proved effective in dispersing demonstrators on Land Day. This equipment has been brought in especially for this purpose from the United States.

SHOPS SEALED

The Israeli authorities forced closed 12 shops during the total strike in the region on Land Day. Seven shops were closed in Bethlehem and five in Beit Sahour.

NO PIX

LONDON, UPI – The Cinematographers Union in Britain has decided to forbid its members to work in Israel except in special cases or in the preparation of news programmes on topical subjects. Participants in the union's annual conference voted for the strongly-worded resolution against the Israeli government.

10 MONTHS FOR MEMBERSHIP

RAMALLAH – The military court in Ramallah sentenced Karim Daoud Hamid, 37, from Aboud village to two years imprisonment, of which ten months are effective and the rest suspended, after accusing him of belonging to a Palestinian organisation. Hamid has American citizenship and is currently living in the US. The US consul in Jerusalem attended the hearing.

THREAT TO PLO

BUDAPEST, AFP – Nayif Hawatmeh, general secretary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said at a press conference on Friday in Budapest that the PLO has received warnings from "imperialist circles" to allow King Hussein to negotiate on its behalf.

The Hungarian news agency said that the Palestinian official added that the warning contained a threat of new attacks against the PLO if it did not give a positive reply before the end of March.

MORE THREATS

DAMASCUS – News reports said there has been an escalation of oppressive measures against Palestinian families in South Lebanon. A number of Palestinian families have been warned to leave their houses in Sidon and go to refugee camps.

CLASHES IN LEBANON

There was an exchange of artillery fire last night between Israeli forces stationed at Kamd al-Loz and Syrian forces stationed at Sultan Ya'acoub area in the Beqa'a valley.

April 2, 1983

MK DOUBTS GOVERNMENT

TEL AVIV – MK Mohammad Watad of the Labour Alignment sent a telegramme to the Israeli health minister, Eliezer Shostak, asking for the establishment of a unit of Israeli and West Bank doctors to investigate the poisonings in the Jenin district.

In a telegramme which came after his visit to Jenin, Watad said that Israeli justifications do not stand up to reality. Watad also demanded that the official analyses carried out at Rambam Hospital in Haifa be revealed.

BUS STONED

An Egged bus was pelted with stones on the way from Kiryat Arba to Jerusalem. Israel Radio said that two passengers were injured and that one passenger opened fire but that no one was hurt.

NAQAB BOMB

TEL AVIV – The Israeli military spokesman announced that a land mine exploded under a truck carrying a Beduin near Kibbutz Rafiqim in the western Naqab. The vehicle was damaged but none of the passengers was hurt.

FREE CAR FOR SETTLERS

Maariv newspaper, in its Friday supplement, carried advertisements for new houses in the settlement of Nofim in the north of the West Bank.

The advertisement included the offer of a gift of a new Fiat 127 to all those who pay an installment on the price of a house in this settlement town.

BEQA'A CLASHES

LEBANON – Israeli tanks opened fire at a Palestinian position in the Beqa'a. The radio said that this operation was in response to an attack by Palestinian fighters against the Israeli army.

BOMBS IN BEIRUT

BEIRUT – Three successive explosions were heard at the entrance to Chtoura, on the Beirut-Damascus road, followed by the sound of gunfire. The Voice of Lebanon Radio said that this caused tension in the village and that shopkeepers immediately closed their doors.

UN ON POISONING

UNITED NATIONS – The Arab block in the UN has asked the Security Council to hold a meeting to discuss the cases of poisoning of girl students in the West Bank.

April 3 1983

MOSQUE PROTEST

JAFFA - Arab residents of Jaffa demonstrated in front of the Hassan Bek Mosque in a silent march to protest the destruction of the mosque's minaret.

FLAG ARRESTS

Galilee area police arrested seven Sakhnin residents on suspicion of raising a Palestinian flag on Land Day. Israel Radio added that 25 residents have been arrested in the western Galilee on the same charge

NEW TAX PAYMENTS

GAZA — As of next May, local water, electricity and tax bills will have to be paid through certain banks specified by the Israeli-run municipality The period for payment will be seven days from the date of issue. Residents are demanding that this period remain as it is now — 14 days - because meters are often read before the end of the month, making it hard for people to pay on time

NO STUDENT CARDS

GAZA - The military education administration in Gaza has stopped issuing university cards to students in the first year of university study

They have also stopped issuing these cards to all students at the Arab University of Beirut until next June. The cards made it easier for underage students to travel without prior permission between their universities and the Gaza Strip administration The reason for this measure on the part of the education officer in the Strip is not known

EXTREMISTS PRAY

A number of extremist religious Jews, "The Faithful of the Temple Mount," held prayers behind the Bab al-Magharbeh (Dung Gate) led by Gershon Salmon. The gate leading to the al-Aqsa mosque was closed while they prayed.

LONG AWAITED RETURN

TEL AVIV — *Davar* newspaper reported that former residents of the village of Bar'am decided last week to ask Israeli premier Menachem Begin and Defence Minister Arens to implement the Israeli Supreme Court's decision issued a few years ago committing the Israeli government to hold a special session to look into the former residents' demand to return to their land.

The residents will hold a procession to Bar am to hold Easter prayers.

STONES IN J'LEM

Jerusalem residents threw stones at Israeli vehicles and raised Palestinian flags in the al-Wad quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem. Three Israeli soldiers were injured.

FORCED SCHOOL CLOSURES

The Israeli authorities announced the closure of all government schools in the West Bank from April 4-9. Schools were closed by military orders for three days last week.

ANTI-POISONING ARRESTS

Israeli police have opened a file against the headmaster of Dahiyet al-Barid Girls School after he complained that the girls in his school experienced feelings of choking after a military jeep passed the school. The police took away the headmaster to "find out his motives for making such a complaint, according to *Al Hamishmar*.

BANK RAID

Demonstrators attacked the Discount Bank branch in Tulkarm and destroyed its contents.

SETTLERS SHOOT BOY

An Arab student from Aroub refugee camp near Hebron was wounded when a settler opened fire. The wounded boy was taken to Makassed hospital for treatment.

NABLUS BOMB

Two Israeli soldiers were injured in Nablus when a hand-grenade was thrown at them. The army carried out an arrest campaign and closed off the area. Two local youths were also injured; Amar Badr Mahmoud, 20, in his leg, and Sultan al-Jadi, 24, wounded in the back.

MOSQUE GUARD

Jaffa youths guarded Hassan Bek mosque and carried placards calling on the Israeli government to restore the mosque whose minaret collapsed yesterday.

BUSINESS PROTEST

NABLUS — The Chamber of Commerce held a meeting to discuss the deteriorating situation in the light of the continuing curfew imposed on the Old City and the recurrent attacks on places of worship. They decided to send a protest memorandum to the Israeli authorities.

April 4, 1983

US INVESTIGATORS HERE

Two American specialists from the Disease Control Centre in Atlanta, Georgia, arrived in Israel on the invitation of the Israeli Health Ministry to investigate the cases of poisoning on the West Bank. The two began their field investigation after a meeting with the general director of the health ministry and health specialists.

BOMB IN ABASAN

A bomb exploded in the centre of Abasan village in the Gaza Strip. There was no damage or injuries. The Israeli police are investigating the incident.

STONES IN QALQILYA

Four Israelis were wounded when stones smashed the windscreens of their cars in Qalqilya. A curfew was imposed on the town.

Stones were also thrown in Taibeh and Jaljoulia in the Triangle. Tyres were also set alight in Taibeh. Order was restored after police intervention.

MOLOTOV IN TULKARM

Israel Radio Hebrew service said that a fire bomb was thrown at an Israeli military camp in Tulkarm and another at an Israeli soldier near Jalazon refugee camp. The radio said nobody was hurt.

STONES IN OLD CITY

Israelis were injured near Damascus Gate in the Old City. An Israeli bus was also pelted with stones as it passed the Shu'fat area north of Jerusalem.

POISONING FEAR

RAMALLAH Religious schools and those affiliated with UNRWA in the Ramallah and al-Bireh district were closed following the spread of poisoning in the West Bank, especially in schools. School and educational administrations decided to postpone studies for one week.

April 5, 1983

ATTACK ON BZU HOSTEL

RAMALLAH — Four unidentified persons attacked the Rabah Hotel in the centre of Ramallah last night. The four were armed with shotguns. They beat up three students inside the hotel which is now used as a Bir Zeit University hostel.

MOTHER PROTESTS SON'S IMPRISONMENT

TEL AVIV Sarah Yablanka began a hunger strike in front of the Israeli defence ministry in Tel Aviv to protest the imprisonment of her soldier son for a second time because of his refusal to serve in the occupied territories.

HUSSEIN TO CAIRO

CAIRO, AFP - The Cairo newspaper *Al Shaab* said that Jordan's King Hussein is expected to visit Cairo after President Mubarak returns from his present trip to the Far East. The paper said that this visit will be the first Arab visit to Cairo at head of state level since Arab disagreements during the era of former President Anwar Sadat.

MOLOTOV

An incendiary bomb was thrown at a military vehicle in Jalazon refugee camp. Following the incident, a curfew was imposed and troops began a wide-scale search.

POLICE HOLD ISRAELIS

Police arrested nine students of Yeshivat Birkat Avraham religious seminary in the Old City of Jerusalem on charges of throwing stones at two foreign television correspondents.

EGYPTIAN EXPERTS FOR HASSAN BEK

Mohammad Bassiouni, deputy Egyptian ambassador to Israel, said that Egypt is ready to send three engineers specialising in Islamic art to participate in restoration of the Hassan Bek mosque in Jaffa.

JAILED FOR STONES

RAMALLAH — The military authorities sentenced Nasser Mahmoud Mohammad Abbas, 15, a student in Ramallah Preparatory School to five months imprisonment with nine months suspended and fined him IS30,000 on a charge of throwing stones at an Israeli vehicle.

OPENING DAY

BETHLEHEM — The Israeli authorities reopened three shops in the town closed on Land Day. Four other shops in Bethlehem and five in Beit Sahour have remained closed since then.

TERROR IN LEBANON

Israel Radio Hebrew service said that the Red Cross has eyewitnesses of Lebanese citizens entering the village of Jabra, near Sidon, and threatening to kill Palestinian refugees if they did not leave their houses and South Lebabnon.

Red Cross officials announced that they informed the head of the Israeli army in Beirut of the terror campaign and the new threats against Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

ARRESTS AS WARNING

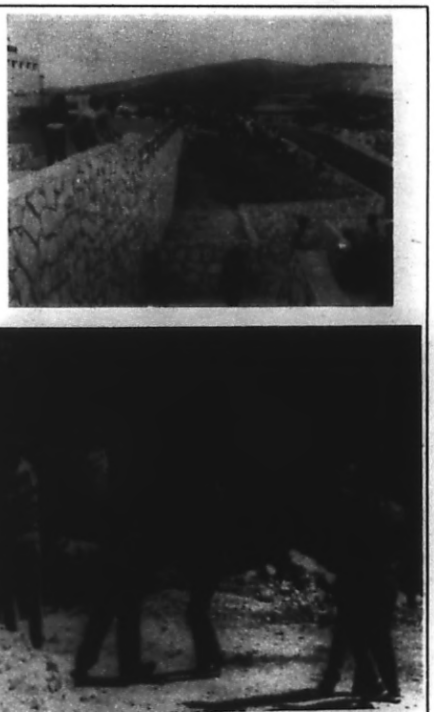
Israel Radio reported last night that the Israeli police have, in the past two days, arrested 11 Palestinian youths from the Galilee and the Triangle as a 'preventive' measure. Israeli security sources said that theyare expecting protests on the anniversary of Land Day although no total strike has been announced by the head of local Arab councils in the Galilee.

TIME PROTESTS CENSORSHIP!

WASHINGTON - The American magazine *Time* said in its latest issue that Israeli policy on press censorship is "unique." It reported that telephone-tapping of journalists, inspection of their mail and disruption of telexes while they are sending news, puts Israel in the class of the "hard-line dictatorships."

MILHEM IN JAPAN

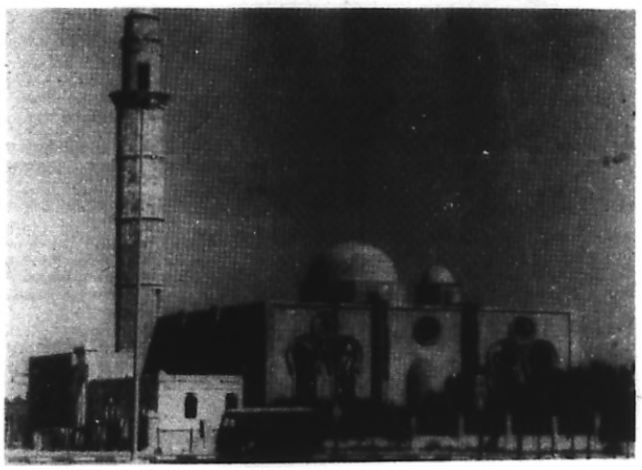
TOKYO, AFP — Mohammad Milhem, exiled mayor of Halhoul, ended a 10-day visit to Japan as guest of the Japanese foreign ministry. Milhem said that Japan would soon recognise the PLO and that his talks with Japanese officials were fruitful.



Palestinian volunteers on the move: above, Clean up in Um al-Fahm April 1; Planting seedlings on Bir Zeit University's new campus./JN

Hassan Bek Mosque Collapse: Bomb Blast or Israeli Government Neglect?

The minaret of the historic Hassan Bek mosque, Jaffa, mysteriously crumbled in the early morning hours of April 2. Some local reports say the collapse came as a result of an explosion. The official Israeli version is that the 25-metre minaret fell due to age and neglect. In the aftermath of the fall, money to rebuild and renovate the 150-year-old mosque has been unfrozen by the Israeli ministry of religious affairs. Thousands of shekels were also collected by Palestinians for the task. Last year the mosque was the focus of conflict between Jaffa's 12,000 Palestinians and the Israeli government which wanted to sell it to an Israeli businessman.



Hassan Bek Mosque before collapse of minaret. Built in the 19th century, its architectural features make it one of the most important mosques in the country.

Hassan Bek after the fall of the minaret. Local reports say the collapse came as the result of an explosion.

Inside the mosque, adjacent to where the minaret stood. An Israeli cabinet decision in 1981 promised funds for renovation; only this week did the ministry of religious affairs say money was available. /TS

The fall occurred at about 3:40 am, April 2. A woman tourist, staying at the nearby Astoria Hotel, said she heard the distinct sound of an explosion. "I was afraid the Arabs were attacking and that I would be caught in the country," she said. The Israeli receptionist at the hotel confirmed to her that there had been an explosion and calmed the woman. Other people in the area, including an Israeli journalist, reported hearing the sound of an explosion.

The Israeli army radio station reported there had been an explosion in its 5:00 am broadcast. Later in the day, however, official reports changed and said the minaret had collapsed of its own accord.

The Israeli municipality of Tel Aviv-Jaffa and the local committee of Jaffa Arabs both sent engineers to examine the rubble. Early reports from the Israelis argued there was a strong possibility that strong winds had caused the collapse.

Issam Awad, *waqf* (Islamic Foundation) engineer in Jerusalem who has visited Jaffa several times since April 2, noted that the foundations are strong. He also said stones had scattered in all directions -- rather than in one, which he would have expected after a collapse.

Mohammad Tabouni, a Nazareth engineer, refused to speculate about an expolsion. He is one of five experts appointed by the Islamic Trustees Committee in Jaffa to probe the incident. The committee is not officially recognised by the Israelis.

Abed Kaboub, chairman of the trustees, told Israel TV just after the fall that a bomb caused the damage. The next day he refused to speculate as to the cause when contacted by *Al Fajr*.

Kaboub said he would accept a police investigation, "if it was conducted thoroughly, including an examination of the foundations."

As news of the minaret fall spread, anxious local people gathered at the mosque. Tention mounted as rumours spread that Jewish extremists had caused a blast. Some added the collapse to the list of recent attacks against Muslim shrines, including al-Aqsa, Jerusalem. Others cited the municipal destruction of graveyards in Ramle, Lydda and Haifa. A six-day visit of local youths was declared the same day and groups are guarding the mosque around the clock against further damage.

Tel Aviv police commissioner Avraham Turgeman called in Abed Kaboub, five other trustees committee members and the local Imam, warning him to see that tempers cool.

Visiting the site the same morning, Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat said responsiblity for collapse lay with the ministry for religious affairs. He said Tel Aviv had budgeted IS5 million but the ministry had neglected repairs. On April 4, the ministry, which had pleaded lack of funds, announced it had found the money and that restoration would start soon. An Israeli cabinet decision in 1981 promised restoration work would begin within four months. Meanwhile, the Jaffa trustees were forbidden to take cash from the Supreme Islamic Council in Jerusalem and local Muslims would have to do the work themselves.

At a meeting of local dignitaries in Jaffa, April 5, a decision was taken to start work on renovation immediately. A local contractor suggested that if IS5 million was handed over now, interim reconstruction and renovation could start and continue after the government passed plans. Religious Affairs Minister Yusef Burg reportedly has US $1 million to finance the work.

There were aiso reports, April 5, that money for the mosque was being collected in the Galilee. The Egyptian embassy is also interested in funding building work.

The historic Hassan Bek mosque was built to honour a Turkish governor in the 19th century. Its beauty and architectural features make it one of the finest and most important mosques in the country. Since the early days of the state of Israel, it has been in the hands of the ministry of religious affairs.

A scandal erupted in 1981 when plans were announced to sell the mosque to Labour Party leader Shimon Peres' brother who wanted to make a recreation centre in it. The government intervened and called for its reconstruction and reopening.

Waqf leaders are demanding it be transferred back to their trusteeship.

Last Friday, people coming to the mosque to pray found it locked, and water pipes had been disconnected.

On April 7, the religious affairs ministry announced officially that it was allocating IS 40 million to reconstruction of Hassan Bek.